

Chess Problems

Problem No. 47



Solution Page 13

Eubank to Launch Fighting Comeback



Kuwaiti Crown Prince Saad al-Abdollah al-Sabah (C) Was Greeted by Lebanese PM Hariri (L) Upon Arrival in Beirut Aug. 9

VOL. II, No. 530 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

IRAN NEWS

Haitian Security Agent Examines Rifle Grenade Shells Found Near the Presidential Palace After Gunmen Attacked It Aug. 19



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Wednesday August 21, 1996, Mordad 31, 1375, Rabi II 5, 1417



Niyazov



Rafsanjani

Niyazov and Velayati Speed up Cooperation

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati in Ashkhabad yesterday, submitted a written message from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to his Turkmen counterpart, Saparmurat Niyazov.

In a meeting yesterday, the two exchanged views on issues relevant to the Caspian Sea, and agreed on the convening of the Caspian Sea littoral states' foreign ministerial session from Novem-

ber 11-13, IRNA reported.

They also discussed major regional issues and developments as well as comprehensive cooperation between Tehran and Ashkhabad in the economic, commercial and industrial spheres, including oil, gas and telecommunications.

Also agreed upon was a series of talks for the execution of already signed agreements and steps to ensure progress in bilateral ties.

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Turkey Alarmed by Inter-Kurd Clashes

ANKARA, TURKEY (AFP) - Turkey was yesterday anxiously eyeing heavy fighting between rival Kurds just over the border in neighboring Iraq fearing the bloodletting could spill over into its territory.

"We want a rapid reconciliation between the warring parties," a government source said, asking to remain anonymous.

Turkish authorities fear the clashes, which have ended an 11-month shaky cease-fire between the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), could light the tinderbox for further troubles on their soil, the source added.

Ankara has been waging a bloody 12-year campaign against separatist Turkish Kurds led by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) battling to set up a Kurdish homeland in southeast Anatolia.

It has launched several incursions across the border into the Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq in a bid to wipe out PKK rear bases



Talebani

used to unleash attacks in Turkey.

The PUK, led by Jalal Talebani and the KDP, headed by Massud Barzani, have controlled northern Iraq since the aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf War with international backing and in defiance of Baghdad.

But clashes flared in May 1994 in rows over power-sharing and the distribution of vital tax revenues, which have left at least

2,200 people dead and split the region into two.

A fragile U.S.-brokered cease-fire agreed in September collapsed Saturday when heavy fighting erupted in northeastern Iraq.

"Neither side knows the extent of their casualties but it is heavy fighting and there are victims from both sides," Fuad Masoum of the PUK leadership in northern Iraq told AFP Monday.

"What the KDP wants is the capital Arbil, but we are lying in wait for them," he added.

The PUK said Sunday that 11 people had been killed and 40 wounded in the fighting which erupted the previous day in northeastern Iraq, while the U.N. said there were several dead and dozens wounded.

The KDP's spokesman in London, Dilshad Miran, said he blamed the PUK for the violence, saying it had "failed in its bid to take control of a strategic road linking the Iranian border to Salahaddin, the KDP's base."

Turkish pro-Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan during a visit to Tehran, called for four-way talks on the situation in northern Iraq between Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

But the proposal ran up against stiff opposition from his Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller.

Iran was also wary of sitting down to talks with its former foe Iraq. The two countries have still not completely restored ties since their 1980-1988 war.

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More Attacks in Saudi Arabia Are Inevitable

NICOSIA, CYPRUS (AFP) - Exiled Saudi opposition leaders said yesterday they were convinced there would be more anti-American attacks in Saudi Arabia, with one saying Saudi officials may also be hit.

Saad al-Faqih, head of the London-based Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia (MIRA), and Mohammad al-Massari, the head of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), both said more attacks were "inevitable."

Faqih added: "These attacks could hit American targets but also Saudi officials."

Saudi Arabia has many armed and well-organized young people who denounce their government as "illegitimate" and who are determined to expel U.S. troops from the kingdom which houses the holiest shrines in Islam, Faqih said.

Both opposition leaders, who were reached at their headquarters in London, also insisted yesterday that Saudi Arabia, despite its de-

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Civilians Flee Grozny Fearing Russian Assault, Yeltsin in Hospital

GROZNY, RUSSIA (AFP) - Panic-stricken civilians fled Grozny yesterday after the Russian military command announced it would assault the Chechen capital within 48 hours to drive out the rebels controlling most of the city center.

Hundreds of civilians could be seen traveling on foot or by car, weighed down with belongings, hurrying toward the outskirts of the devastated city.

During the night Russian warplanes dropped about 40 bombs on two residential districts of eastern Grozny - Mikroyons One and Two.

Russian artillery also bombarded rebel positions in the devastated Chechen capital during the night and early yesterday, Gen. Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, told Itar-Tass news agency.

"Russian artillery is accurately shelling designated targets in Grozny but aircraft are not being used," Pulikovskiy said.

A fragile truce which had held since last Wednesday broke down in the weekend despite continuing peace talks.

Pulikovskiy said yesterday that using force was the only way to drive out the separatist fighters, who seized much of Grozny in a surprise offensive on August 6.

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Israel Alarmed Over Syria's Military Potential

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (AFP) - Israel raised the alarm yesterday over a Syrian test-firing of a long-range Scud C missile as Damascus warned that the Jewish state, with the peace process in deadlock, was preparing an attack.

"If Syria wants to make peace with us, it must adopt a different tone from that of threats and missiles," said Foreign Minister David Levy.

Israel's Channel 2 television reported late Monday that Syria test-fired a Scud C with a range of 600 kilometers (360 miles) capable of hitting almost anywhere in the Jewish state. The test took

place several weeks ago.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, however, sought to play down the reports. "We have not noticed a change in Syrian policy. The Syrians have long had missiles and from time to time carry out exercises," he said.

Meanwhile, reports from Jerusalem say Israel yesterday carried out its first test under battlefield conditions of a missile designed to shoot down incoming missiles, state radio said. In Damascus at the same time, the ruling party's newspaper Ath-Thawra warned that it was Israel which was preparing an attack on Syria, "with

only the date yet to be fixed."

"An Israeli attack on Syria cannot be ruled out," it said, in what was the most pointed warning from Damascus of armed conflict since rightwing Leader Benjamin Netanyahu took over as Israeli prime minister in June.

An Israeli expert warned Sunday that Netanyahu's determination to hold onto the Golan Heights, seized in the 1967 Middle East War, had heightened the chances of a new conflict.

The tension with Syria comes after Damascus rejected a "Lebanon-first" option put forward by

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MARJAYOUN, LEBANON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu uses binoculars in Marjayoun Aug. 19, to look at territories in South Lebanon during his first visit as Prime Minister of the zone occupied by Israel. Netanyahu warned Lebanon that its people would pay the price of any new military confrontation with Israel.

(AFP Photo)



Leghari

Leghari Dismisses Sanction Impact on Iran Gas Deal

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, on his second day of a visit to Pakistan, met with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Leghari to promote bilateral and trade relations in disregard of current U.S. sanctions against Iran.

The two came to certain agreements regarding the construction of a refinery and the transfer of gas from Iran to Pakistan. Iranian radio reported yesterday.

Leghari said Pakistan gave priority to obtaining its gas from Iran, and was for the promotion of economic cooperation. He said "the issue of sanctions ... could not leave any impact on the bilateral relations," the report said.

Remaining details concerning the joint refinery would soon be finalized by the Pakistani government, Leghari said.

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SUMMARY



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IRAN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Urgent Need for Tripartite Summit on N. Iraq

Almost all the countries around the globe have religious and ethnic minorities. In principle, these minorities should have genuine rights to freely practice their religion, speak their own language, and generally live their lives according to their culture and tradition.

A society could be called civilized only if it allows its minorities to advance their culture within its legal boundaries.

Unfortunately, most religious and ethnic minorities across the world are suffering because of narrow-mindedness of the majority community.

The biased attitude of the majority community not only hurts the minorities, but also damages and degrades the whole society of the host country.

The Kurdish community in the Middle East is one which in some countries has been treated unfairly by the majority for centuries.

A thorough analysis of the mistreatment of minorities proves that the same biased attitude causes a deep separation between the two groups of citizens. Unlike in Iran, there are major differences between the Turks and their ethnic Kurds. The same is true of Iraq where labels such as 'Arab' and 'Kurd' are displayed in the respective neighborhoods of the two groups to separate them physically and psychologically.

The separation divides the communities, dilutes the rights of the minorities, and creates many psychological and social problems for both groups. These problems also create great hindrances in the way of peace, progress and stability not only for the minorities, but also for the entire society.

The minorities sometimes organize themselves to fight for their rights, as they have done in Iraq and Turkey. But, the leaders of these minorities adopted erroneous methods and most of them ended up being the 'most obedient servants' of certain powers inside or outside the region.

The most unfortunate aspect of such a tragedy is that the innocent people within the minority community suffer, as in the case of the Iraqi Kurds who are being attacked and massacred from several quarters and by various armies.

In Northern Iraq, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) are shedding the blood of their community to gain power and a share of tax revenues.

Their occasional fights since May 1994, when trouble started, have claimed the lives of around 2,200 Kurds. The two groups have been in control of Northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Tripartite parleys between Iran, Turkey and Syria for tackling the situation in Northern Iraq are long overdue and should be immediately called to find a mechanism for silencing the guns there.

PRESIDENT:

Islam Capable of Leading the Society

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hojatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Isfahan Monday attended a gathering of ulema and theologians of Isfahan Theological School in Seyed Mosque.

The President was addressing the ulema. He referred to the Muslim clerics' role in guiding the society, saying that Islam is capable of leading the society in accordance with the scientific and political necessities.

He added that Islam will yield greater successes in society if it is implemented in the correct form and in a principled manner.

Rafsanjani arrived in Isfahan yesterday on a four-day visit. He further added that the ulema have the opportunity to introduce the true Islam to the world, under the wise leadership of the Revolution's Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and the nation's support.

In reference to the enemies' anti-Iran conspiracies, including that of the eight-year Iraqi War, he added that the resistance put up against the global arrogance's aggressive policies is the result of the country's independence and self-sufficiency in scientific, industrial, health and cultural areas.

In regard to Iran's great potentials in different fields, he stressed that Iran will soon be turned into a developed country if the construction efforts' trend continues all over the country.

He also met with the provincial artists, saying that the construction work undertaken in the present era has been unprecedented in Iran's whole history.

He further called on Iranian artists to become involved in the construction efforts and help promote Iran's Islamic culture.

The President inaugurated the province's first Museum of Decorative Arts Monday. He and his



(Photo by Shandiz)

entourage later inspected various departments of the museum.

Furthermore, Rafsanjani broke the ground for Isfahan's giant sports stadium. In the speech at the ground breaking ceremony, he referred to the victories of Iranian wrestlers at the Atlanta Olympic Games, saying that Iranian athletes are capable of achieving outstanding results in international sports competitions.

Meanwhile, a provincial network of the Iranian radio and television was inaugurated by President Rafsanjani on Monday.

In the inaugural ceremony he hoped that the Iranian radio and television would continue to improve the quality of its broadcasts.

The President said that there probably are those who think the Iranian radio and television network can do far better than what it is.

Tehran Governor General's Office Ready to Assist Cancerous Children

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Seyed Jalil Seyedzadeh, the governor general of Tehran, has recently expressed readiness to help solve the problems gripping the Charity Institute Supporting Cancerous Children.

Addressing a meeting of the said Institute's officials, he said, "The Iranian officials have all along supported patients suffering from kidney ailments and cancers and have tried to solve their problems."

Representative of the Institute's board of directors in turn said efforts are being made to construct a highly specialized pediatric hospital for children suffering from cancer.

This hospital can be constructed if the required land is

placed at the disposal of the Institute, he noted.

Dr. Mardavich Al-e Booyeh, one of the Institute's officials, said more than 50 percent of children affected by cancer suffer from leukemia. Brain, lymph, and kidney cancers follow with high incidence.

More than 40 percent of children gripped with leukemia can be fully cured, he stressed adding, "Treatment facilities for such patients in Iran conform to international standards."

More than 85 percent of cancerous children use insurance facilities, while a small percentage enjoy the donations of Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Relief Committee and the Institute, he concluded.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Meets Azeri Prosecutor General

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Baku Afshar Soleimani and Republic of Azerbaijan's Prosecutor-General Eldar Hassanov in a meeting in Baku Monday discussed ways of boosting bilateral cooperation on judicial affairs.

Referring to the geographical closeness and also historical ties between the two neighboring countries, Hassanov stressed the need for all-out efforts to boost

bilateral cooperation, according to IRNA.

Hassanov expressed hope that during his imminent visit to Tehran, ground will be paved for further expansion of bilateral ties in judicial affairs. He is invited by his Iranian counterpart Ayatollah Morteza Moqtadaie to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two sides also stressed the need for intensifying bilateral cooperation to fight against drug smuggling and terrorism.

The Hojatoleslam further hoped that the administrators of the Iranian television network would continue to maintain the people's support, IRNA reported.

Meanwhile, Iranian Radio and Television Network Director Ali Larjani said that Isfahan is now the second Iranian province having its own radio and television network.

A new building for Isfahan radio and television network has three radio studios, one television studio and edit and control rooms

with about 5,200 square meters of roofed area.

The facilities have involved a capital expenditure of about three billion rials in addition to \$3.5 million.

By next February, the transmitters of Isfahan Radio and Television will be replaced by new improved ones to reach a wider audience in the province.

The provincial network of Isfahan Radio and Television now operates four hours daily which is expected to increase to six hours.

Afghan Peace Conference to Be Held in Tehran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the press on his arrival in Ashkhabad Monday that the regional conference on the Afghan peace process will be held in Tehran October 28-29, 1996.

Velayati said that the peace conference will be attended by the Afghan, Iranian as well as neighboring countries' foreign ministers, according to the Tehran-Kabul agreement.

The foreign minister also pointed out that the objective behind peace conference is the idea of assisting the Afghan government to steer about peace, stability and calm.

Velayati exchanged views with Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Boris Shikmuratov regarding, which was welcomed by the host country.

Shikmuratov indicated that he will participate in the Peace Conference of Tehran as a regional co-operation move in order to help Afghanistan reach a peace settlement.

The two sides also discussed the latest development in Tajikistan, and Shikmuratov briefed Velayati on the recent negotiation held between the government and the opposition group in that country.

The two foreign ministers also agreed to continue efforts in helping the Tajik government and opposition group continue negotiations in the place of their choice be it Tehran, Ashkhabad or elsewhere, which did not really matter.

Both Shikmuratov and Velayati discussed the trend of progress and ways to boost promotion of bilateral relations and regional

cooperation. Shikmuratov welcomed the most recent gas accord between Iran and Turkey, saying that it was one of the biggest regional developments.

Velayati arrived in Ashkhabad on Monday and was received by his Turkmen counterpart, IRNA reported.

23 Killed in Truck Accidents

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Twenty-three people were killed in two separate truck accidents on the same road in southern Iran.

Seventeen people traveling on a van were killed and three others injured in a head-on crash with a truck in Bandar Abbas-Minab Road on Monday.

The highway police said the accident took place in the early hours of Monday when a van carrying 20 people collided with the truck.

The highway traffic experts said the driver of the van had violated the regulation by deviating leftward from its due course, according to IRNA.

In the other accident, a speeding truck overturned at a corner on the same road killing all six people on board.

Iran has one of the world's worst road accident rates, with 40,000 serious crashes each year for only three million vehicles on the roads.

RAVI WRITER

Ambassador: Morteza Moqtadaie for South African

کتابخانه

IRAN
DOMESTIC NEWS



Ambassador Moolla Hosts Dinner for South African Wrestlers

A colorful and relaxed atmosphere was the order of the day at the residence of South African Ambassador Musa Moolla on Sunday. The occasion was a dinner party hosted by Ambassador Moolla to greet wrestlers from Iran and South Africa.

The dinner was attended by sports officials from Iran and South Africa, journalists and diplomats residing in Tehran. Ambassador Moolla gave Iran-made souvenirs to the South African wrestlers and South African-made souvenirs to Iranian.



South African Ambassador Musa Moolla (Top) giving souvenirs to the Iranian and South African wrestlers who are pictured (below) in a group.

(Photo By J. BABAI)

"In this way South African will always remember Iran and the same vice versa," Ambassador Moolla remarked.

South Africa's young wrestlers arrived here to participate at the 10th World Wrestling Championship, held in Tehran this week.

South African Amateur Wrestling Federation Chairman H. Westraat, addressing the guests, said that "never before have South African sportsmen been in the limelight as in the past few months."

"We have watched with pride the achievements of our national cricket team, our world champion rugby team, our Bafana Bafana soccer team, our boxers and lastly our Olympic squad to Atlanta," Westraat said.

He recalled that South African sportsmen received several medals at the Olympics for the first time in its history.

Westraat hailed the services of Ambassador Moolla in promoting friendship between Iran and South Africa.

Westraat appealed to Ambassador Moolla to arrange to send some Iranian coaches to South Africa.

From Iran, wrestler Amir Reza Khadem was present at the dinner. He received a bronze in Atlanta and his brother a gold medal.

Iran's Youth Team Coach Kazem Gholami and Wrestling Federation Head Mohammad Reza Taleghani were also at the party along with several other Iranian sportsmen.

Among foreign diplomats we noticed the Swiss Ambassador Rudolf Weiersmueller, Indian Ambassador Siddharth Singh, Sri Lankan Ambassador Y.L. Mohamed Zawahir, Sudanese Ambassador Gutbi al-Mahdi, Senegal Ambassador Omar Ndiaye and several others there to attend the dinner.

South African Embassy's Ebrahim Edries and others were looking after the guests very well.

Speaker Meets Iranian Diplomats

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojjatolislam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri in separate meetings with the Iranian ambassadors to Germany, Austria, Russia and Iranian charge d'affaires to England emphasized ex-

pansion of the Islamic Republic's ties with other nations.

The diplomats reported to the Speaker on their activities in their countries of mission and ways of deepening Iran's relations with those countries, IRNA reported.

Zohbi Heads Back to Damascus



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Syrian Prime minister Mahmoud al-Zohbi left Tehran for Damascus yesterday after a three-day official visit here at the head of a large politico-economic delegation.

He expressed his appreciation to the government and the people of Iran for their warm hospitality during the Syrian delegation's stay in the Islamic Republic.

Zohbi said he was convinced of the resolve of the two nations' leaders to expand their bilateral relations.

During his stay in Tehran, the Syrian minister conferred with President Hashemi Rafsanjani and First Vice-President Dr. Hassan Habibi and signed a memorandum of understanding and several agreements with the Islamic Republic on behalf of his country.

Ministry of Health's Programs for Government Week

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - During the Government Week, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education will launch 292 projects with an overall expense of 15,804,300,000 tomans.

These projects are related to promotion of hospital wards and units, specialized polyclinic, laboratories, nursing faculties, health houses, dormitories, blood transfusion centers, rehabilitation centers, the Ministry's Public Relations Department reported.

Also this report indicated the major activities of the ministry from early 1374 until the end of the Government Week in 1375.

These include the set up of 1,067 health houses, 181 urban and rural health and treatment centers, 25 child birth centers, 15 doctors' houses, as well as the plan to eradicate poliomyelitis, promotion of breast-feeding for 85 percent of children below the age of one, re-

duction of infant mortality rates through vaccination, control of acute respiratory diseases and diarrhea, and encouraging breast-feeding.

Providing healthy potable water for 91 percent of families through improving drinkable water resources particularly in the villages, enforcing educational plans, and protection against AIDS are other programs of this ministry.

In terms of treatment services, 21 specialized polyclinics, 46 laboratories, and 14 emergency centers have been set up.

In order to meet the medicine required by the patients, 96.5 percent of the medicine is produced at 48 active pharmaceutical factories using imported basic material.

The ministry has also provided public health insurance services. Right now, 32 universities, 7 medical sciences faculties are active throughout the countries.

Ratio of Defense Spending to GDP Lowest in Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - In comparison with 30 developing countries, which include Iran's neighbors, Iran's defense expenditure ratio to its gross domestic product (GDP) between 1990-1994 revealed that it was at the bottom of the list prepared by SIPRI.

The ratio of defense expenditure was 2 percent in 1990, and dropped to 1.6 percent in 1994.

Kuwait, Oman, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Israel respectively topped the list in 1990, IRNA reported.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia with a ratio of 13.8 percent, Israel with a ratio of 8.3 percent, Syria with 7.8 percent and Pakistan with 6.2 percent ranked highest in the list for defense spending ratio in relation to GDP for 1994.

Progress Made by Iranian Women Unique in the World

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister's Adviser for Women's Affairs, Simin Behzadpour, said here yesterday that the qualitative and quantitative progress made by Iranian women under Islamic Iran's healthy atmosphere is unique throughout the world.

Behzadpour added that the relatively good attention being paid to women's affairs by the Islamic government has been effective in foiling enemy's claims that Iranian women are discriminated against.

According to the official, presently 45 percent of the Ministry's Art Department budget is allocated to women artists which indicates the growing efforts and struggle of Iranian women to enhance their status in the Islamic society.

Al-e-Thani Meets Iranian Envoy

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikholeslam yesterday delivered President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's message to Qatari Sheikh Al-e-Thani in Doha.

The President's message related to the expansion of both bi-

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN
SURA 64, COMMON LOSS (AL-TAGHAABUN)
In the Name of God
The Beneficent, the Merciful

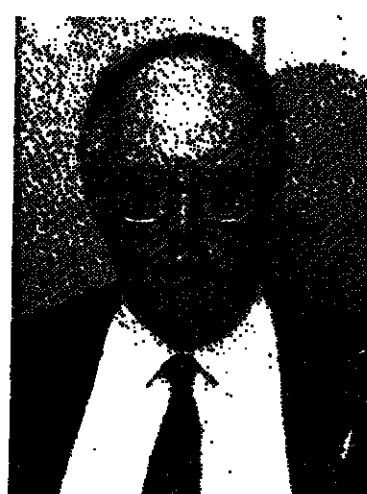
.....
13. Allah: there is no god but He,
So let the men of faith rely
On Allah only.

.....
*The 30th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form
from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5 (F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	13:07
Evening (Maghreb)	20:07
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:48
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:28

Greek FM to Hold Talks in Tehran



PANGALOS

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos arrived here last night on a 2-day official visit for talks with Iranian government officials on issues of mutual interests.

Pangalos will meet Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to review the progress of bilateral relations and discuss regional and international developments.

The Greek official is also expected to be received by President Hojjatolislam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Nateq-Nouri.

Velayati met Pangalos in June when he visited Athens to attend the funeral of late Premier Andreas Papandreu, IRNA reported.

Major Greek afternoon daily Eleftherotipia yesterday reported that Washington has expressed its opposition to Pangalos' visit, add-

ing that U.S. Ambassador to Athens, Thomas Niles, met Greek Premier Costas Simitis on Saturday to discuss the matter. The paper said that Pangalos' visit to Iran had been programmed a long time ago, adding that the visit is taking place at a "problematic period" for Iran.

It referred to the U.S. d'Amato Bill which imposes sanctions on foreign companies investing over \$40 million in the energy sectors of Iran or Libya. Eleftherotipia said the U.S. is "very sensitive" about Iran's relations with other countries, pointing to Washington's strong reaction against Turkey for signing the \$23 billion gas and electricity deal with Iran.

The Greek foreign minister's visit was not aimed at signing any commercial or economic agreements with Iran, the paper added.

SAIRI Appeals to Regional States to Help Iraqi People

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq's (SAIRI) Head Seyed Mohammad Baqer Hakim, urged the heads of Arabic and Islamic states to pressurize the Iraqi regime so as to save the country's people from suppression by Baghdad's government.

In a message cabled to the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait and Jordan, Hakim emphasized that the Iraqi regime has embarked on a massive military operation against dissident Muslims in Amarah, Nasiriyah and Basra regions of southern Iraq since four months ago.

The SAIRI leader stressed that heavy arms including tanks and artillery are being used in the military operation, IRNA reported.

In reference to the Baghdad's efforts to cleanse the army through executing opponents of its policies, Hakim underlined that Iraq's catastrophic situation has negative impacts on regional peoples and threatens regional security and stability.

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ace Conference ld in Tehran

23 Killed in Truck Accidents

President Inaugurates 208 Telecommunications Projects in Isfahan



(Photo by Shandiz)

ISFAHAN (IRNA) - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurated 208 telecommunications projects on the first day of his inspection tour of this historical province on Monday.

The projects have cost the country 420 billion rials, providing telephone lines for 6,000 applicants in the province and connecting 23 districts and villages with the telephone network of Isfahan.

Five new telephone switching centers were officially inaugurated in the cities of Isfahan, Najafabad, Lenjan and Mobarakeh on Monday.

Commerce Minister Calls for Promotion of Non-Oil Exports

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Commerce, Yahya Aie Eshaq, here Monday underlined the need to further promote country's non-oil exports.

Addressing the gathering of Iranian diplomats and ambassadors abroad, he said that foreign trade is considered one of the main pillars of development in any country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran should be the axis for a regional treaty, he stressed, adding that through such a treaty Iran will be able to play its due role in international trade relations.

day and 50 other centers were put into operation in 54 other cities of the province.

Rafsanjani on Monday also inaugurated several health and medical projects in Isfahan and told a group of college students and academics at Isfahan University that higher education development in Iran had been a most prominent accomplishment.

Rafsanjani said there were about 1.3 million college students in Iran today against a mere 150,000 before the triumph of the Revolution in 1979.

The President also said a lower infantile mortality rate and longer maternity life expectancy had also been among the proud achievements of the Islamic Republic.

He said as many as 1,500 theses about medicinal herbs had been written by college students since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution which augured well of a more confident reliance on medicinal herbs in the future.

President Rafsanjani arrived in Isfahan Monday to inaugurate a number of national infrastructure projects in the province.

Development Projects to Be Inaugurated

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Hundreds of development projects have been completed and ready for ribbon cutting ceremonies throughout Iran during the Government's Week, beginning August 23rd.

The projects were implemented at a total cost of billions of rials and include various agricultural and industrial plans in rural and urban areas across the country.

Gilan, with about 500 projects to go into stream during the Government's Week has the lion's share, nearly half of which implemented in the deprived areas of this northern province.

Then comes Hamadan Province with some 100 projects pertaining to agriculture, watershed management, cottage industries, drinking water and power supply, bridge building, animal breeding and fish farming.

During the Week, some 74 development projects, mostly in urban areas are to be inaugurated in Mazandaran Province.

The projects include six city gas supply plans completed with a total expenditure of over 43,800 million rials.

With some 30 development, cultural and manufacturing projects implemented in Chabahar in the southeastern Province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the city will undergo a drastic change in terms of development during the Government's Week.

Malaysia's PETRONAS Joins TOTAL on Iranian Oil Project

PARIS, FRANCE (AFP) - French oil company TOTAL has granted Malaysia's PETRONAS a 30 percent interest in its project to develop two offshore Iranian oil fields, TOTAL said Monday.

The participation of PETRONAS subsidiary Carigali will raise \$180 million out of the \$600 million five-year investment required

to develop the Sirri A and E fields in Iranian waters of the Persian Gulf.

TOTAL signed the development contract on the two fields in July with Iran's National Oil Company (NIOC).

Production is forecast to start the beginning of 1998 and reach 120,000 barrels a day.

Ministry Looks at Optimization

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Although 95 percent of Iran has electricity, Minister of Energy Bijan Zanganeh says the service is still far from ideal.

Addressing the first national seminar on optimizing Iran's electricity, water and sewage services, the minister pointed out that "not only should we encourage subscribers who abide by the regulations, but we must get our service better organized."

The Deputy Minister for Water, Vakil, told the seminar that Iran's daily water consumption was presently 84.3 billion cubic meters, 94 percent of which was used in agricultural irrigation, 5 percent for drinking and 1 percent for industry and mining.

Also present at the seminar were the deputy minister for sewage and water affairs, deputy minister and managing director of Tavanir Co. Ali Mallahi, and other specialists.

Khavaran Caters to Construction Industry

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Khavaran Complex presents everything needed in construction from sanitary equipment to copper sheets at its south Tehran location.

The diversified construction material ranges from sanitary equipment, decorative material, hardware, wooden and metal doors and windows, kitchen equipment, to brass and copper sheeting.

The complex is located in southeastern Tehran in a 70,000 sqm area, under a 20,000 sqm

roof. It will soon turn into a distribution center and store for retail and wholesale construction materials.

Engineer Homayoun Hamidi, the general manager of the complex, told IRAN-NEWS that extensive efforts had been made aimed at expanding, mechanizing and computerizing Khavaran.

He said: "Our goal is to render services to businessmen in export activities."

Iran, Gambia Ink Fishery Accord

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Gambia signed an agreement in Banjul Monday on fishery and animal husbandry. The agreement was signed by the Iranian Minister of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Forouzesh and Gambian minister of foreign affairs.

On Monday, a visiting Iranian delegation reviewed with foreign minister of Gambia and ministers of telecommunications, labor, trade and agriculture of that country relations between Iran and Gambia, and signed a letter of understanding.

Monday's Trading at Tehran Stock Exchange

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A total of 1,695,274 shares, worth over 10,419 billion rials, were traded in 1,261 turns for 654 applicants here at Tehran Stock Exchange on Monday.

In Monday's deals, shares of 54 companies increased, while those of 19 others declined.

General index price of shares for Monday reached 2,099.62 points, showing a rise of 1.16 points compared to that of Sunday.

Foreign Exchange Rates

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The following are the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates		Export Rates	
		SELLING	BUYING	SELLING	BUYING
Australia	dollar	1,381	1,373	2,369	2,357
Austria	schilling	168	167	287	286
Belgium	(100)francs	5,722	5,690	9,817	9,788
Canada	dollar	1,280	1,272	2,195	2,184
Denmark	krone	305	303	523	520
France	franc	345	343	592	589
Germany	mark	1,179	1,173	2,023	2,013
Italy	(100)liras	116	115	199	198
Japan	(100)yen	1,628	1,619	2,793	2,779
Netherlands	guilder	1,061	1,055	1,820	1,811
Sweden	krone	285	283	455	453
Switzerland	franc	1,455	1,447	2,496	2,483
U.K.	pound	2,708	2,723	4,662	4,639
U.S.	dollar	1,755	1,750	3,015	3,000
U.A.E.	dirham	479	476	820	818

Comprehensive Steps Proposed to Enhance Pak-Iran Trade

ISLAMABAD (PTI) - Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Khalid Mahmood Tuesday proposed comprehensive measures to enhance bilateral trade between Tehran and Islamabad.

Delivering a talk on "economic dimensions of Pak-Iran relations" here at the Institute of Strategic Studies he said exchange of business delegations between the two countries should take place more frequently and suggested issuance of multiple visa for six months to businessmen on reciprocal basis on the recommendations of respective chambers of commerce.

He suggested signing of an

agreement on "carnet de passage" so as to increase transit trade through Iran. He was of the opinion that the proposal for establishment of common border markets needs to be examined as it would help in reducing the volume of informal trade which presently exists between the two countries.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said Pakistan and Iran should allow opening of branches of their banks in each other's country. He said Iran should reduce period of "usage" from 360 days to 120 days for imports from Pakistan.

He said efforts should be made

to remove the non-tariff barriers adding that preferential tariff arrangements should be made at bilateral level or under the ECO. He said the list of the items to be covered under this arrangement from the both sides should be carefully worked out so that those items are included which are being actually traded between the two countries or have the potential of being traded.

The Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran said both the countries should make efforts to diversify the export of various items from each side. He pointed out that a prom-

See Page 13



TEHRAN - Iran and Syria yesterday signed a number of agreements in economic and cultural areas.

Orthodox Jews call for Golan compromise

KING HUSSEIN VISIT NO

Israel Offensive in South Lebanon

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CIVILIANS

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PETROBRAS Joins
Iranian Oil Project

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to Construction Industry

Iran, Gambia
Ink Fishery
Accord

Exchange Rates

Netanyahu to revive the peace process.

The prime minister has since called on the army to take more aggressive action against Hizbollah guerrillas fighting to expel Israel from its "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Netanyahu warned during a tour of the border region on Monday that it would be "very hard" for the Lebanese people in the event of any new military confrontation with Israel.

Syria is the main power-broker in Lebanon where it has 35,000 troops.

"The Syrians could be worried because they understand that we are determined to fight Hizbollah in Lebanon," Mordechai told journalists yesterday.

Orthodox Jews Call for Golan Compromise

JERUSALEM - Spiritual leaders of the Jewish Orthodox party Shas in Israel's ruling coalition have called for a territorial compromise with Syria on the Golan Heights, their aides said yesterday.

"In my opinion, the Syrians should be given a part of the Golan and we should reach a compromise with them," Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri said, backed by the party's spiritual Chief, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The Shas Party of Sephardic oriental Jews has 10 MPs and is a partner in the rightwing coalition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel Offensive in South Lebanon

TYRE, LEBANON - Israeli forces shelled a South Lebanon village outside the occupied "security zone" yesterday after warning the Lebanese people they would pay the price for guerrilla attacks.

The army and its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia fired around 30 shells at Zibqine village, two kilometers (one mile) outside the occupied zone, a day after Hizbollah guerrillas killed an SLA officer in a bomb attack.

Three houses were badly damaged, a Lebanese police officer said, without giving details of casualties. The bombardment is in violation of an April cease-fire accord for South Lebanon under which Israel and Hizbollah pledged not to attack civilian targets.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned during a tour of the Israel-Lebanon border on Monday that the Lebanese people would suffer in the event of any new military confrontation with Israel.

A Hizbollah spokesman said yesterday that the shelling "was not the first violation of the cease-fire accord by Israel," charging that Lebanese civilians had been wounded in the recent shelling of another village north of the buffer zone.

Meanwhile, an Israeli soldier was killed and another was wounded in the occupied zone when two nervous patrols mistook each other for anti-Israeli guerrillas, security sources said.

Hebron Could Bring Down Netanyahu's Coalition

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition would be in danger of collapse if he ordered a re-deployment from the West Bank town of Hebron, Agriculture Minister Raphael Eytan warned yesterday.

"The government coalition will fall if Mr. Netanyahu does not respect the accords we have reached," said the leader of the far-right Tsomet Party, referring to pre-election deals with the Likud chief.

"Those who think they can make me deviate from my path must know that they are letting themselves in for problems," he told the newspaper Haaretz.

Eytan said the accord between the ousted Labor government of Shimon Peres and the Palestinians for the Israeli army to withdraw from 80 percent of Hebron would spell "catastrophe" for the town's Jewish residents.

King Hussein to Visit North

AMMAN, JORDAN - King Hussein was to visit northern Jordan yesterday as a curfew remained in place in the southern town of Karak, under army control following two days of riots against a steep increase in the price of bread.

The Jordanian monarch, who has vowed to put down the protests with an "iron fist," was scheduled to visit the northern city of Ramtha, near Jordan's border with Syria, officials said.

The bread riots which erupted in Karak on Friday spread to other towns in the south of the country on Saturday but did not spill over into the north.

U.N. Condemns Saddam

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - A United Nations human rights panel Monday called on Saddam Hussein's regime to end inhuman practices such as mutilating opponents, branding as "exceptionally grave" Iraq's human rights abuses.

A resolution adopted by a majority of the U.N. human rights sub-committee demanded that Saddam Hussein immediately withdraw troops surrounding the country's southern marshes, and allow refugees to return to the region and humanitarian relief teams to accompany them.

The resolution also demanded an end to internal blockades against the north of the country where Kurdish groups are based, and against the Shia population in the south.

The resolution also demanded trapping thousands of Russian troops in street fighting.

He said it would take one month to oust the separatists from the city.

"In the current situation, I see only force as a way of getting out of the situation which has come about in Grozny," he told Interfax news agency.

Pulikovsky said his troops had already managed to break through separatist blockades around a number of Russian federal positions in the city.

"We don't intend to reconcile

ourselves further with the brazen and barbarous actions of the illegal formations, who are continuing to shoot down our helicopters, staging daring acts of sabotage and blockading Russian servicemen," he told Interfax.

He told civilians late Monday to get out of Grozny within 48 hours, warning he would then use all means at his disposal to drive out the fighters, who have been battling for independence from Russia for the past 20 months.

Chechen rebel Commander Aslan Maskhadov urged Russian Security Council Secretary Alexander Lebed to exert all his influence "to stop the approaching madness," saying Pulikovsky's threat was "blackmail of the civilian population," Interfax reported.

An AFP report from Moscow maintained that the command of Russian forces in Chechnya is to revert to Gen. Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, who was temporarily replaced by Gen. Konstantin Pulikovsky, Interfax news agency said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Russian Security Chief Alexander Lebed is to leave Moscow for Chechnya today to carry out urgent measures to restore calm there, his aides said yesterday, quoted by Itar-Tass news agency.

In neighboring Dagestan, the Finance Minister of the Russian North Caucasus Republic, Gamid Gamidov, and three other people were killed yesterday in a car bomb blast in the republic's capital Makhachkala, Russian news reports said.

Witnesses quoted by Itar-Tass said Gamidov was standing at the entrance to the Finance Ministry when a car parked nearby blew up, at 9:30 a.m. (05:30 GMT).

Interfax reported that a total of four people were killed and eight wounded in the blast.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

Yeltsin in Heart Clinic

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been hospitalized in a cardiological center near Moscow since August 15, Echo Moscow radio reported yesterday, quoting "informed sources."

The report was denied by the Presidential Press Service.

The sources quoted by the radio said doctors considered Yeltsin to be in a "relatively serious" state and they would soon decide whether he could be operated on.

Presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said the report was "utterly absurd," Echo Moscow said.

The Kremlin said Yeltsin had left for Valdai, a lake region 300 kilometers (200 miles) northwest of Moscow, to decide whether to spend his holiday there.

"Boris Yeltsin has left for Valdai for two days to see if he can spend his holidays there," the spokesman said, without specifying when Yeltsin's holiday would begin.

Yeltsin is to return to Moscow during the week for meetings with government ministers, the spokesman added.

Yeltsin, 65, last appeared in public on August 9 when he was sworn in for a new four-year term as president, after a grueling re-election campaign.

After winning re-election the Kremlin said Yeltsin needed a rest.

On Monday, the Kremlin hit out at continuing Western specu-

lation over Yeltsin's health.

Amid press reports in Germany and the United States that Yeltsin urgently needed to undergo heart surgery following two heart attacks last year, the presidential team dismissed such rumors as "alarmist."

nials, has arrested militants in connection with a June bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen.

"Six Saudi Muslim extremists, who are veterans of the war in Afghanistan, have confessed to the attack," said Faqih, whose group last Wednesday said a number of Afghanistans veterans had confessed to the bombing in the eastern city of Khobar.

"The six men are imprisoned in Jubail prison on the eastern Persian Gulf coast," Faqih told AFP when contacted at his office in London. "The Saudi authorities have not allowed the Americans to question the prisoners."

Massari told AFP that "four people - two Kuwaitis and two Lebanese - were arrested nearly a month ago in Kuwait and handed over to the Saudi authorities."

He said "the four men confessed to the attack in Khobar," in which 19 U.S. airmen died when a truck bomb exploded outside their military dormitory at King Abdul Aziz Air Base on June 25.

A spokesman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington said Friday that people have been questioned in connection with the bombing although no arrests have been made.

However, Turkey, Iran and Syria, which all have sizable Kurdish communities of their own, meet regularly to discuss the situation in northern Iraq, with which they all have a common border.

ECOARI

Aqazadeh said the promotion of economic relations with neighboring and Muslim countries was among the priorities of Iran's foreign policy.

The Iranian official said he hoped the executive aspects of the agreements would be finalized as soon as possible.

Meetings between delegations from the oil ministries of both countries looked at details of both the construction of the refinery and the gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan.

Niyazov said those ties were "fraternal and sincere," being based on good neighborliness.

Turkmenistan would make efforts to further consolidate and expand bilateral ties, he said.

"We will never forget Iran's support and assistance to Turkmenistan when it suffered hardships," Niyazov said.

The Turkmen president announced his full support for Tehran as host of the regional conference on Afghanistan from October 29-30, according to the IRNA report.

He also underlined that to make the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) more comprehensive, Turkmenistan would concentrate its efforts on consolidating economic and political cooperation among ECO members.

Turkmenistan now assumes the rotating chairmanship of ECO.

WEATHER			
Tehran Temperature			
Maximum	37°C		
Minimum	26°C		
Shiny sky with wind			
Temperature extremes till noon today			
High: Abadan	50°C		
Low: Qaen	8°C		
Temperature in some major cities of the world on August 20, 1996			
Jeddah	34°C	Rome	28°C
Moscow	27°C	Istanbul	24°C
Madrid	27°C	Kuwait	48°C
Frankfurt	28°C	Paris	23°C

Niyazov said his country wanted to work with Iran in speeding up the realization of trilateral agreements.

Velayati also underlined the launching of more activities to realize formerly reached accords as well as the exploration of new avenues of cooperation in the two countries' abundant potentials.

ECO, besides strengthening economic cooperation in this sensitive region, would solidify the independent foundations of the Central Asian and the Caucasus republics, the Iranian Foreign Minister said.

Trilateral cooperation was a complementary activity in the region, Velayati said, and such efforts would bring about economic growth. Other countries were willing to contribute to such cooperation, he said.

Using beginning was made to get out of the usual oil - rice trade patterns when agreements were signed for supply of one thousand bulldozers by Iran to Pakistan against the export of one sugar and one cement plants and other engineering goods from Pakistan.

He was of the view that the proposal for establishment of common border markets needs to be examined as it would help reduce the volume of "informal trade" which presently exists between the two countries.

He said the utilization of U.S. dollars 50 million export credit should be facilitated, particularly by the private sector.

Khalid Mahmood said trade flow needs to be supplemented by investment flow adding that private sector's participation from within or outside the region is vital to the success of the regional co-operative efforts.

He said notwithstanding the fact that both the countries are capital deficient, Pakistan and Iran have constantly been making efforts to increase mutual economic cooperation. He also referred to the agreements signed by the two countries during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Iran in November last and said steps are afoot to implement these agreements.

He said the Pak-Iran oil refinery with the capacity of six million tons of oil per year to be built at Hub, Karachi at an estimated cost of U.S. dollars one billion and construction of a gas pipeline between Iran and Pakistan are mega projects which will open new vistas of economic cooperation between the two countries.

He observed that the gas pipeline will provide a big assured market to Iran for the sale of its gas and a reliable source of supply to the gas-thirsty Pakistan, whose own sources of gas are depleting against a fast increasing demand.

He said it is a matter of great satisfaction that both Iran and Pakistan are equally sensitive to the fact that trade and economy

cannot be separated from progress or political issues and that without peace and stability in the region, economic policies development cannot be pursued smoothly.

He said regular consultations are held between Iran and Pakistan to devise ways and means to resolve the Kashmir dispute and to bring about peaceful national reconciliation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

He said the world is witnessing political and economic changes of global proportions with the end of the cold war and hoped that the post cold war era in this part of the world will be characterized by a quest for increased economic and commercial cooperation for the benefit of peoples of Pakistan and Iran.

Khalid Mahmood said the unique geo-strategic and geo-economic locations of Pakistan and Iran lend the two countries to serve as a lynch pin for bringing unprecedented growth and prosperity to themselves and the region.

government to quit and call early national elections.

Deve Gowda became prime minister on June 1 following the collapse of a short lived BJP government in New Delhi after April-May general elections. In Uttar Pradesh, Deve Gowda's Janata Dal (People's Party) will be pitted against Former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party, which props up the governing coalition.

LUMBAGO

Lumbago, from the Latin word (lial) Imbus, (end ital) or loin, may refer to any pain in the lower back, usually of muscular origin, but is often used to describe arthritic or bony pain as well.

Sciatica or sciatic pain is caused by a compression on the sciatic nerve that runs from the low back, across the buttocks, down the back of the thigh and into the leg, calf and foot. The pressure on the nerve may be caused by bony changes in the vertebrae, such as from arthritis, or from the bulging of cartilage that occurs with a "slipped disc" (intervertebral disc).

The treatment of lumbago is to reduce the spasm or pain in the muscles, of sciatica, to reduce or remove the pressure on the sciatic nerve. Frequently, heat and analgesics are used in both cases, which may be the origin of the confusion. Of course, it is just as possible arthritis lies somewhere at the beginning of both problems, but they have each taken a different course.

Solution to Today's Problem

- 1. R= King, D= Queen
- 2. T= Rook, F= Bishop

R= King, D= Queen, T= Rook, F= Bishop, C= Knight
Problems will appear every other day in the SPORTS page.

IRAN NEWS

India Vetoes Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

GENEVA (AFP) - India formally vetoed yesterday a draft treaty banning nuclear testing in a move that threatens to torpedo 31 months of arduous talks aimed at halting the development of nuclear weapons.

India's representative to the negotiations, Arundhati Ghose, formally registered her country's veto of the pact at a meeting of the 61 countries involved in marathon negotiations at the disarmament conference here.

"Our opposition to that text continues," said Ghose, referring to the draft text already agreed to by the five declared nuclear powers of Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

"We would not therefore agree to it being forwarded to the UNGA (U.N. General Assembly) in any form by this conference."

Ghose repeated that New Delhi opposed the project because it did not set out a timetable for scrapping the arsenals of the five nuclear powers.

New Delhi also objects to a clause stating that India, a nation on the nuclear threshold, had to

sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in order for it to be implemented.

In an initial reaction, the U.S. Ambassador to the talks, Stephen Ledogar, called the move "most regrettable" and "a distortion of the conference's rules of consensus."

Ledogar said that despite the Indian veto, the draft treaty could still be forced through to the General Assembly next month.

Pakistan meanwhile denounced the move by India as "hypocrisy," saying its demands were "obviously unrealistic and unreasonable," and accusing India of opposing the draft treaty to keep its own nuclear options open.

"The Pakistan delegation deeply regret that after two and a half years of painstaking negotiations, the Conference on Disarmament has been prevented by one country from recommending the adoption of a CTBT," Pakistan's delegation chief Munir Akram said in a statement.

"Today the mask of the 'Smiling Buddha' has been torn off revealing the face of the goddess of

war," Munir said, a reference to the code-name of the nuclear device which India exploded in 1974.

The Indian move, which came despite last-minute efforts to persuade it to ditch its opposition to the treaty, strips the pact of the unanimous support it needs to go forward, and seriously undermines two and a half years of tough negotiations.

However, the other countries involved are still searching for ways to put the draft text to the U.N. General Assembly. One way would be for individual nations to put it before the annual gathering.

Diplomats said in Geneva last week that as a last resort the United States, relying on support from China, could circumvent the conference, to bulldoze the treaty through.

The environmental group Greenpeace also called yesterday for the draft to go before the United Nations despite India's veto.

"Despite the disagreement in the committee, there is now a text of a treaty which cannot be allowed

to just sit in some dusty archive in the United Nations," said Simon Carroll, Greenpeace representative to the Geneva negotiations.

"Although not perfect, the treaty would be sufficient to prohibit all nuclear tests forever and ensure that this ban is complied with. It's time to take it to New York and get it signed."

Last week John Holum, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said moves to submit the draft without the unanimous support of the conference was "an alternative route."

He made a final bid last week to win over India, after securing China's support for the project.

However, such diplomatic strategy could risk undermining the credibility of the disarmament conference, so far the only international forum for negotiating such treaties.

Pakistan for one said it "would regret any procedure that circumvents" the Geneva conference.

Thai Opposition Submits No-Confidence Motion

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thailand's opposition yesterday filed its second no-confidence motion against the country's embattled Prime Minister Banham Silpa-Archa, an opposition statement said.

Opposition leader and former Premier Chuan Leekpai, of the Democrat Party, submitted the motion to Parliament to censure Banham for his "lack of leadership" and ability, the statement said.

Speaking to reporters after making the submission, Chuan said he hoped the long anticipated motion debate could take place on September 11.

"It is the opposition's duty to carry on from the last no-confidence motion as the political situation has no more legitimacy," Chuan said, adding that the opposition parties had been working closely together to frame the new motion. Banham and his government survived the first censure motion in May but the opposition announced immediately afterwards that it would go on the offensive again in September with a second debate.

The premier narrowly escaped being censured in the last debate by controversially closing Parliament before he was due to be grilled, but will be the sole target of the new opposition attack.

"Banham has no knowledge, no ability, no vision, no morals and has a lack of leadership," the opposition statement said. It also accused Banham and his government of using their influence to profit from shady business deals.

Suicide Leap from Huge Bridge

LE HAVRE, FRANCE (AFP) - A woman committed suicide yesterday by leaping from the top of the Pont de Normandie, one of the world's biggest suspension bridges which opened last year, police said.

The woman, whose identity was not revealed, fell 40 meters (120 feet) into the Seine Estuary. Her body was recovered by frogmen, a spokesman for emergency services said.

A number of suicides have been reported on the bridge since it opened last January. It is designed to carry 1.5 million vehicles per year - a world record - across the Seine when fully operational.

Six Taliban Militiamen Held Over Escape of Russian Hostages

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Six Taliban militiamen have been taken into custody in an investigation by the Afghan faction into last week's escape of seven Russian pilots and crew, Afghan sources said yesterday.

The Russians fled from Kandahar, the main base of the Islamic

Tigers Pushing Refugees to India, Sri Lanka Military

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas were forcing civilians to flee to neighboring India as government forces kept up pressure against the rebels, the military said yesterday.

The Sri Lankan Defense Ministry said that the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had mounted a "propaganda campaign" to kick off an exodus of refugees to the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The ministry said Tigers were claiming food shortages and charging the military with blocking civilians crossing over to the government-held town of Vavuniya in the north in a bid to encourage civilians to go to India.

"The LTTE has launched the propaganda campaign with a view to start an exodus of civilians from Sri Lanka to India," the ministry said. "The displaced people are requested not to fall prey to LTTE propaganda."

The ministry said 50 truckloads of food were being sent to rebel-held areas of the island's north daily and arrangements were being made to send more in the coming day.

For their part, the Tigers have

militia in southern Afghanistan, on August 16 in their own cargo plane after being held hostage for more than a year.

They told a news conference in Moscow on Sunday they tricked their guards into letting them board the plane, start the engine and take

off.

The Ilyushin-76 was forced to land at Kandahar in August last year while flying arms and ammunition to the Afghan government in Kabul. The crew have insisted they knew nothing of the trafficking.

The Kandahar probe is being supervised by a commission set up by the Taliban leadership after the incident which was termed by faction's representatives a severe setback.

The sources said the six had been held for interrogation by Taliban investigators. They did not identify them, but said they included three militiamen who were on duty on Friday to guard the plane along with three others who were taken by the escapees with them.

The three guards had moved away from the plane in the scorching heat to rest in shade leaving three others behind, the sources said, adding that the reason for detaining the rest was not known.

The Taliban top leader, Mulla Mohammad Umar, has been personally overseeing the ongoing investigation in Kandahar, the sources said.



MALABANG, PHILIPPINES: Philippine President Fidel Ramos (R) and Muslim activist leader Nur Misuari (L) embrace each other during a historic meeting in Malabang, a southern town, August 19. The two men cleared the last hurdles to a peace pact aimed at ending over two decades of sectarian conflict, which, according to Ramos, left 120,000 people dead.

(AFP Photo)



PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI: An unidentified security agent at the Haitian presidential palace displays rifle grenade shells recovered near the palace and the neighboring police headquarters Aug 19 following an overnight attack on both buildings by unidentified gunmen. Officials of the Haitian National Police and of the U.N. support mission to Haiti reported that one person was killed and several injured in the attack.

(AFP Photo)

Yemen Accuses Eritrea of Not Withdrawing from Island

SANAA, YEMEN (AFP) - Yemen yesterday accused Eritrea of failing to withdraw its troops from a disputed Red Sea island by the time it had promised.

"Eritrea's position is strange at a time when the world expects it to live up to its commitment to withdraw from the island of Lesser Hanish," said the government newspaper called the Fourteenth of October.

"The Eritrean ambassador in Sanaa had however announced the withdrawal in the next few hours," according to the newspaper which is published in the southern Ye-

men port city of Aden.

After a mediation mission to Yemen and Eritrea by French envoy Francis Guttman, France announced on Monday that Asmara would withdraw in the coming days from Lesser Hanish, which it occupied on August 10.

The Fourteenth of October newspaper said: "The most surprising thing is that the Eritrean regime is intensifying its press campaign against our country which is really disturbing."

"Peace in this region is in everyone's interest, and foremost for Eritrea," the daily said.

Algerian Government Denies Reported Massacre

ALGIERS (AFP) - Algeria yesterday sharply denied a press report that Islamic activists had slit the throats of 63 civilians, including pensioners and children, saying the Arab newspaper that carried it was trying to spread anxiety and support terrorism.

The London-based Arab daily Al-Hayat said Monday armed Islamic activists had cut the throats of 63 people including women, old people and children, in the worst attack on civilians since political

violence erupted in Algeria in 1992.

The claim was "devoid of all basis in fact," the Algerian Interior Ministry said. It accused the newspaper, distributed in Arab and Western capitals, of "seeking to sow strife and spread anxiety among public opinion."

The newspaper had "but one objective: to support avowed terrorism come what may," the ministry statement said in a violent direct attack.

Three-Year-Old Girl Kidnapped

TOULOUSE, FRANCE (AFP) - A three-year-old girl was kidnapped as she walked out of Boulangerie with her older sister in a suburb of this southern French city, police said yesterday.

They said their only clues to Fatima's disappearance Monday came from her sister Sabrina, seven, who told them a man of African origin had snatched her and sped off in a Renault.

ie Society



re Conference
I in Tehran

23 Killed
in Truck
Accidents

IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S., Cuba Trade Expulsions of Diplomats

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States expelled a Cuban diplomat yesterday in a tit-for-tat for Havana's expulsion of a U.S. diplomat, officials said yesterday.

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said Cuban diplomat Jose Luis Ponce, who is accredited to the Cuban interests section in Washington, must leave the country within one week.

He said the action was taken in response to Cuba's decision to expel Robin Meyer, a diplomat with responsibility for human rights issues.

Davies said that Havana had accused Meyer of carrying out activities "incompatible with her diplomatic status", a charge that usually implies espionage or subversion.

"We categorically reject that assertion and protest in the strongest terms the Cuban government's action in requiring her to leave," Davies said in a statement.

Meyer, who was posted in Havana two years ago, had openly met with human rights groups and provided them with newspapers, magazines and textbooks that were allowed under the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations.

"In response, we have taken reciprocal action," Davies said.

But Ponce said "there is a significant difference" between the two expulsions. "What she (Meyer) was doing in Havana and what I was doing here is very different. I was trying to build bridges, trying to improve mutual understanding. But these people are not interested in that," he told AFP.

Ponce said it was the first time in 10 years the United States had expelled a Cuban diplomat posted in Washington and described this as "a very negative signal."

International Child Sex Probe in Hunt for Belgian Missing Girls

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AFP) - Police are probing an international child sex ring in the hunt for two teenagers following the deaths of two eight-year-old girls at the home of a convicted paedophile, the Belgian press reported yesterday.

As the parents of the missing girls appealed for their release, The Demiere Heure Newspaper said investigators had evidence of a Belgian paedophile network with links in Germany and the Czech Republic.

Meanwhile, a man detained

Monday in connection with the probe was released yesterday, police said.

Press reports identified him as a Dutch national aged 58 and said he had been detained after police swoops on properties in Brussels and elsewhere. A search of his caravan turned up pornographic material, they added.

In another development, Czech police have been searching the two Belgian girls since late last year. Interpol's Deputy Director here, Vratislav Greg, said yesterday.

The two girls disappeared from their homes in August 1995.



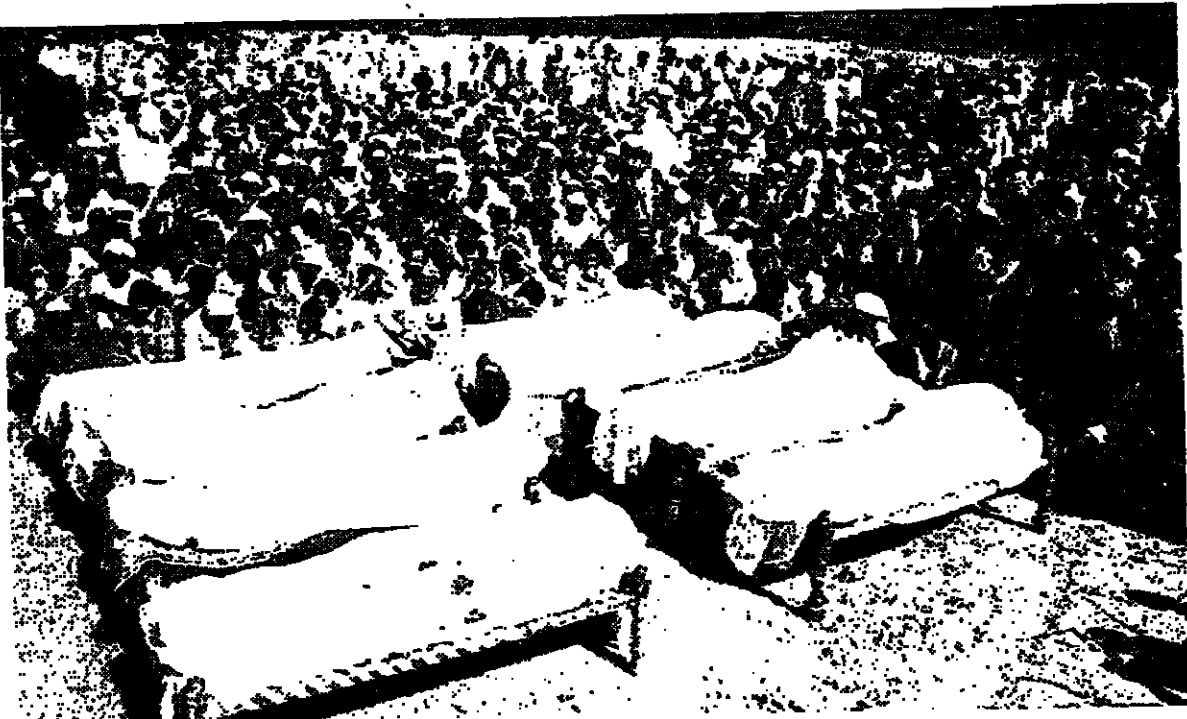
ARLON, BELGIUM: A three-way handout composite photo from the Belgian police showing Belgian paedophiles and child kidnappers (L-R) Marc Dutroux, former Brussels real-estate agent Jean-Michel Nihoul, and Dutroux's accomplice Michel Leleuvre. Dutroux and Leleuvre have been charged with abducting and imprisoning children. Nihoul has been charged with criminal association in the kidnappings. (AFP Photo)

Colombians' Clash with Army Leaves Two Dead, 21 Wounded

FLORENCIA, COLOMBIA (AFP) - Tension continued to rise Monday after the violent confrontations between army forces and thousands of coca growers that left two dead and 21 wounded in this southern city.

Protesters and troops maintaining a security belt around the besieged city clashed repeatedly as farmers sought to block trucks carrying supplies from entering Florencia, the capital of the southern state of Cauca.

The soldiers used tear gas grenades, but failed to disperse the protesters, who then charged toward the soldiers.



VEHARI, PAKISTAN: Villagers and relatives of the victims sit around the dead bodies before the funeral ceremony on August 19, in the area of Thana Mitro in Vehari district, a township in the farming belt of the Punjab province. At least 12 people were killed and several other received injuries when six armed assailants fired on a Shia-religious meeting on August 18. (AFP Photo)

Twenty Wounded in Dhaka University Gun Battles, Rain Defuses Tension

DHAKA, BANGLADESH (AFP) - Heavy rain and a strong police presence helped reduce tension at Dhaka university yesterday after a night of clashes between rival student groups which left 20 people wounded.

The heavy rain and police presence partly dampened overnight tension despite a protest strike called by an opposition student group which left classrooms and offices shut closed, they said.

Witnesses said rival groups of students tried to start a protest march at the arts faculty area, but were forced to retreat when the downpour started.

Police patrolled the downtown university campus yesterday after the gun battle late Monday between student activists from the ruling Awami League and the rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The two sides exchanged gunfire and threw crude bombs in a dispute over control of dormitories and student union offices.

leader told AFP that leaders of the rival groups agreed to immediately hold peace talks at a campus canteen yesterday to defuse tension. The meeting started with top leaders from both sides, he said without giving immediate details.

A senior constable was among the wounded and was admitted to hospital after being hit by bomb fragments, police sources said.

They could not provide details

of the other victims.

Newspaper reports said activists of the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) backed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, evicted rivals from the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) of the opposition BNP from two dormitories during the fighting.

Police patrols had been intensified and no fresh clashes were reported yesterday.

The World at a Glance

RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN - Nearly 400 Pakistani employers have been convicted in a nationwide crackdown against child labor abuse over the past 20 months, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto disclosed yesterday.

ULAN BATOR, MONGOLIA - Eight people have died and nearly 3,000 people in Mongolia were under quarantine for cholera yesterday as the number of infections rose, the State Emergency Commission (SEC) reported.

SRINAGAR, INDIA - Two Muslim separatists wanted for the murder of six Indian tourists were killed along with two police officers yesterday a fierce fire-fight in this summer capital of Kashmir, police said.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - Former Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker escaped a prison term and was sentenced to four years' probation Monday for fraud related to the Whitewater affair that also involved a former business partner of President Bill Clinton.

RANGOON, BURMA - A senior aide to Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and two other members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) have been jailed for seven years, NLD sources said yesterday.

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - Five Chilean helicopters have relieved German aircraft which have been flying U.N. experts on weapons searches inside Iraq since the 1991 Persian Gulf War ended, U.N. officials said yesterday.

TOKYO, JAPAN - U.S. military authorities in Japan said yesterday two U.S. fighter jets flew close to a Qantas Airways passenger jet en route from Tokyo to Sydney but did not violate authorized civil aviation procedures.

(DISPATCHES)

Oman Studies Border Dispute Between Bahrain and Qatar

DOHA, QATAR (AFP) - The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, received Omani Foreign Minister Yusef bin Alawi bin Abdullah late Monday to discuss a border dispute between Bahrain and Qatar, said the official QNA agency.

The meeting, which was also attended by Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem al-Thani, discussed "the latest developments in the region," said QNA.

Earlier Monday the Omani diplomat met with Bahrain's Crown Prince Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa in Manama for talks about the long-running feud between the Persian Gulf neighbors.

The pair discussed "ways to resolve outstanding problems between members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) and to lift obstacles in the way of the smooth working of this pact," the official Bahraini news agency QNA said.

Bahrain and Qatar both claim sovereignty over the Hawar Islands and Fash al-Dibel Rocks in the Persian Gulf, with the dispute almost degenerating into armed conflict in 1986.

S. Korean Police Storm Campus, 3,200 Arrested, Street Battles Erupt

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - Thousands of South Korean riot police, backed by helicopters and firing stun grenades and tear gas, stormed a university campus here at dawn yesterday and arrested 3,200 radical students.

The attack ended a violent nine-day standoff with the students, led by the outlawed radical federation of university students or Hanchongnyon, accused by the government of links with North Korea.

Twelve hours later, some 5,000 police were scouring the streets for the last of hundreds of students who outwitted them and slipped into surrounding alleys.

Yesterday's arrests brought to 5,600 the number rounded up since the standoff started last Monday, the highest number ever arrested over a single incident in South Korea's turbulent history, Yonhap news agency said.

Yesterday's dawn attack started at 5:40 a.m. (20:40 GMT Monday) when riot troopers used sledge hammers to smash into one of two barricaded buildings at Seoul's prestigious Yonsei University.



SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA: South Korean riot police arrest student protesters from one of the buildings in Seoul's Yonsei University campus this morning, August 20.

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Chang Wins Opener in Open Tune-up

COMMACK, NEW YORK (AFP) - Top seed Michael Chang rolled past Germany's David Prinosil 6-1, 6-3, here Monday in his opening match at the ATP Hamlet Cup, his final tune-up for next week's U.S. Open.

Chang broke Prinosil twice in three chances to go up 5-1 in the first set and broke him again in the seventh game of the second set to go up 4-3.

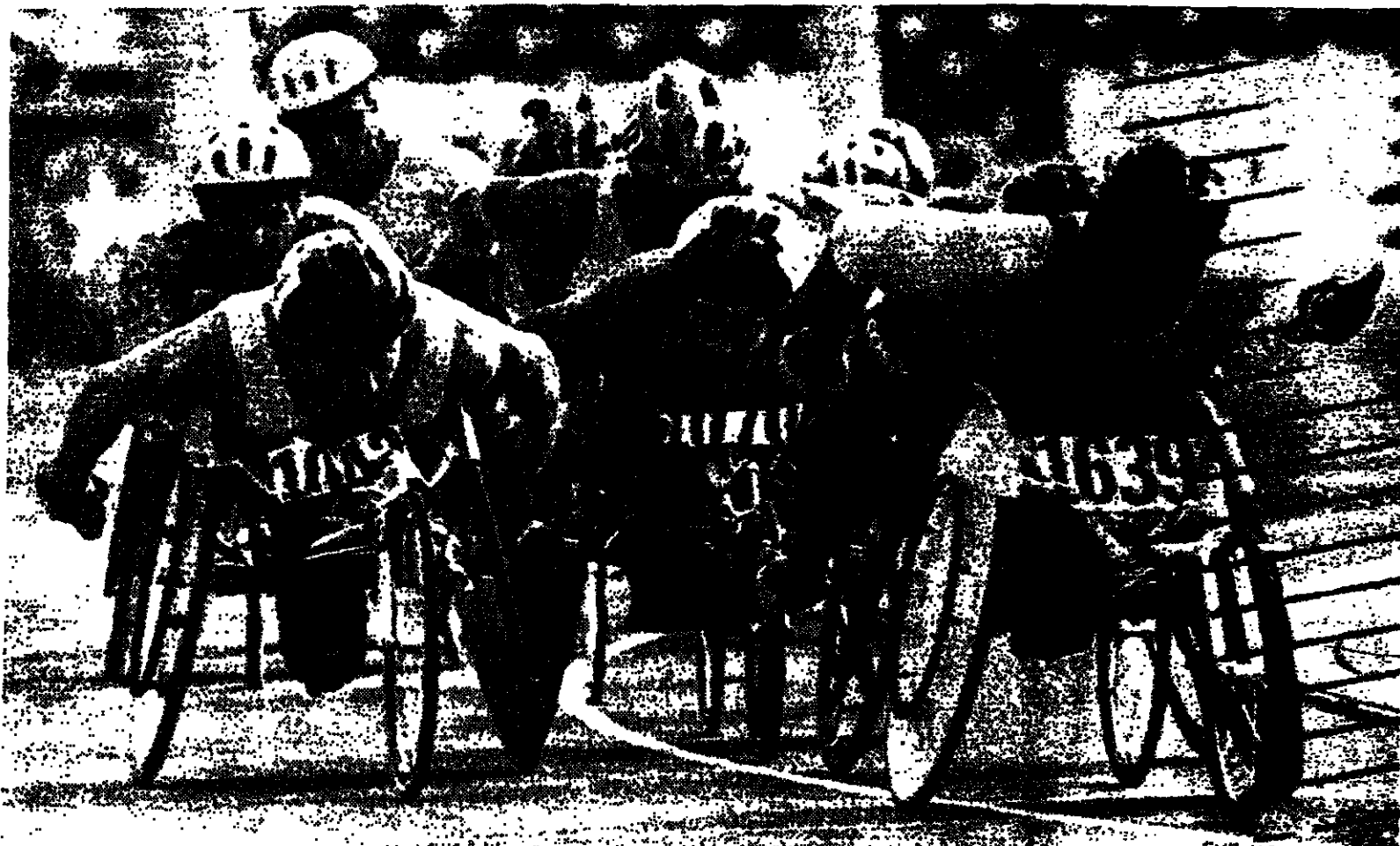
He closed out the match by holding serve and breaking Prinosil to win the match. Chang seeks his fourth title of the year, he is currently third in the world.

IRAN NEWS

VOL. II, No. 530 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Wednesday August 21, 1996, Mordad 31, 1375, Rabi II 5, 1417

SPORTS



ATLANTA: Jacob Heilveil (R) of the U.S. Paul Wiggins (L) of Australia and Steve Orens (C) of Belgium lead the 10,000 meters men final, classification T52 and 53, at the Paralympic Games at Atlanta's Olympic Stadium. The Paralympic Games will go on through August 25.

(AFP Photo)

Watertight Case, Says IAAF

SYDNEY (AFP) - The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) has a watertight case against Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco, who tested positive to steroids prior to the Atlanta Olympics. IAAF General Secretary Istvan Guljai said here Tuesday.

The world athletics body will next month hold an arbitration hearing into the case at its Monte Carlo headquarters after the 26-year-old Capobianco was cleared to run in Atlanta by Athletics Australia just days before the Olympics.

An Athletics Australia tribunal ruled last month that there was insufficient documentation to guarantee the safe custody of Capobianco's urine sample from a track meet in the Netherlands on May 26 to a drug-testing laboratory in Cologne, Germany and there was a chance that the sample had been tampered with.

The Dutch Federation deny the Australian findings with the head of the federation's doping controls saying that all appropriate forms and procedures were carried out correctly.

Guljai, here for the 6th IAAF world junior athletics championships, said at a press conference: "our doping commission, who are experts, very clearly advised (the IAAF) council that they consider this unanimously without any doubt as a doping case. What happened was legally correct."

Asked if the IAAF had a watertight case, Guljai said, "yes."

"We would have liked to have resolved the issue earlier, we would have liked to resolve it before the Olympic Games, but we

cannot blame Athletics Australia because what they have done is completely in compliance with the rules as the rules are now.

"There is a good thing in it also, because the IAAF wants to show the entire world that rules are rules and we go by them."

Guljai said the arbitration findings will be binding on both parties.

He said that in the aftermath of the Capobianco case the IAAF's doping rules would have to be amended to prevent a repeat.

Athletics Australia President

David Prince, sitting alongside Guljai at the press conference, said: "We have a responsibility to prepare a case to the IAAF, we are doing that now, and because we are doing that we are not in a position to make any public statements...hopefully there will be some decision before the end of September."

Capobianco, who failed to progress past the preliminary rounds of the 200 meters at Atlanta, tested positive for the Anabolic Steroid Stanozolol at a meet at Hengelo.

One Gold, One Silver, One Bronze

IRAN NEWS SPORTS DESK

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Two Iranian Paralympic champions Bagged one gold medal and a silver medal on the fourth day of the track and field competitions at the Atlanta Paralympic Monday.

Mokhtar Nourafshan who won the gold medal in javelin on Monday, had already won a bronze medal in shot put on Sunday.

Abdolreza Jokar also won a silver medal in the javelin.

Giddins Banned for Cocaine

LONDON (AFP) - Sussex fast bowler Ed Giddins became the first cricketer to be banned from first-class cricket for taking drugs after being found guilty of using cocaine on Tuesday.

The Test and County Cricket Board's discipline committee slapped a ban on the 25-year-old until April 1, 1998 after he failed a drugs test in May.

Giddins, who toured Pakistan with England 'A' last year, is regarded as one of the best fast bowling prospects in England.

Sussex secretary Nigel Bett said: "I think he was speechless. I don't think there was a reaction."

The hearing was adjourned after more than four hours on Monday, but Giddins emerged from the TCCB's Lord's offices after 20 minutes on Tuesday.

Before being driven away in a red VW Golf, he would only com-

ment: "I've absolutely nothing to say. I wish I could."

The only known previous case of a cricketer being tested positive was Yorkshire bowler Richard Stemp, when with Worcestershire, but the TCCB accepted his explanation that a drink had been spiked.

This time, though, the committee rejected Giddins' contention that he had ingested the drug inadvertently and found that his taking of the drug must have been a deliberate act.

The committee said that Giddins' punishment should send out a strong message to the cricketing community.

"Cricket, its players and administrators, would not tolerate in its ranks those who indulge in the use of a prohibited drug. The committee was sure the public would demand nothing less."

Bett meanwhile welcomed the

resolution of a case that has been hanging over the County for weeks.

Betts said: "It's obviously been in the background at Sussex over the last few months and people will all be happier that the matter is closed."

"We shall obviously miss Ed, he's quality cricketer. But I think it will release the pressure on a lot of people."

"I think that when one of your colleagues has got something like this hanging over his head it makes life a little bit difficult in the dressing room."

Bett reported that there was no major reaction to the Giddins' case in the local area, adding:

"The postbag hasn't been bulging with letters, and there's been no real reaction in the crowd. It's not really been mentioned by anybody on the circuit."

Sri Lanka on Alert

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lanka has tightened security at cricket grounds and assigned elite police commandos to guard visiting teams competing in the Four-Nation Cricket Series beginning here Saturday, officials said.

The Special Task Force (STF) commandos will protect players and other police units have been brought under a deputy inspector-general's accord security normally reserved for visiting heads of state, officials said.

"All arrangements are in place to receive the players from Australia, India and Zimbabwe," a spokesman for the Board of Control for Cricket said.

Sports Highlights

Small's Test Future on Hold

PRETORIA (AFP) - Controversial Springbok wing James Small will have to wait until August 31 and the end of the current Three-Test Series against New Zealand to find out if he has a future in international rugby.

Springbok coach and convenor of selectors Andre Markgraaff said that he will deliver a full report on Small's recent disciplinary record after the final match at Ellis Park in Johannesburg.

Small was left out of the South African side for the first two tests of the All Black Tour after being seen at 2:00 a.m. in a nightclub on the Friday before the final Sanzar Series test against the All Blacks in Bloemfontein a fortnight ago.

There have been nationwide calls for the return of Small, South Africa's most capped player with 31 internationals since the country's readmission, for the second test of the series at Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria on Saturday.

But Markgraaff has steadfastly refused to recall the explosive 27-year-old, saying that, while the decision was not taken lightly, Small's attitude over the past few weeks has had a negative effect on the Springbok squad.

"James small is a very talented player who has represented his country with distinction," said Markgraaff.

"But we can no longer tolerate his strange attitude and the effect it has on the other players."

Markgraaff also hinted at a lapse in discipline by the talented wing during the recent tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Small is devastated by the decision of the national coach.

"I live for the Springbok side and I'll die for the Springbok side," he said from his home in Durban.

Achievements in Fencing Elaborated

IRAN NEWS SPORTS DESK

TEHRAN - Vice-President of Iran's Fencing Federation Mehdi Muhammadzadeh in a press conference here Monday elaborated Iran's Juniors and Cadets fencing achievements during the Fourth Asian Juniors and Cadets Fencing Championship held in Jakarta, Indonesia, last week.

Jakarta "Pasha" Pashapoor our 17-year-old fencer bagged Iran's first gold medal in fencing after 23 years in the saber competition, and Peyman Fakhri won a silver medal in the Cadets competition and Muhammad Mirmuhammadi won a bronze medal in flore."

He said Iran finished fourth among fifteen nations taking part in the competitions.

Muhammadzadeh further stated: "The International Fencing Federation approved holding World Fencing Championship in Class A in Iran during the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations Jan. 12-22, 1997."



JAKARTA: Mehdi Muhammadzadeh Vice-President of Iranian Fencing Federation awarding the silver medal in saber while Pasha Pashapoor (gold medal winner) looks on August 14.

IRAN NEWS

Arafat Lowers Bread Prices

YERUSALEM (AFP) - Yasser Arafat's government has lowered the price of bread by 10 percent, a move aimed at curbing inflation and angering the public.

The move comes as the government faces a severe economic crisis, with unemployment at 15 percent and inflation at 100 percent.

Arafat said the move was necessary to ensure the basic needs of the Palestinian people.

The government has also announced a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage.

The move is part of a series of measures aimed at stabilizing the economy.

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IRAN

FEATURE NEWS

High Blood Cholesterol Not as Threatening in Elderly

CHICAGO (AP) - A new study shows high cholesterol may not be much of a threat to healthy people over age 70, leading some to suggest doctors may be needlessly prescribing cholesterol-lowering drugs for many older patients.

People aged 71 to 104 with elevated cholesterol levels suffered no more heart attacks or deaths than their counterparts with normal cholesterol levels, the study of 997 people found.

"Cholesterol in older people may mean something very different than in younger people," said the lead author, Dr. Harlan M. Krumholz, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. He emphasized that more research is needed.

One possibility is that cholesterol levels in the old may not reflect lifelong levels. Another is that people who have survived with high cholesterol may be more

resistant to its artery-clogging potential than other people, the researchers said in Wednesday's issue of the journal of the American Medical Association.

Previous research on high cholesterol in the elderly has yielded confusing findings, an American Heart Association spokesman said.

At least two large studies have found that high cholesterol increased the likelihood of heart problems, and at least four found that such levels did not, said Dr. John D. Brunzell, who was not involved in the new research.

The apparent conflict may be explained by the varying health of elderly people enrolled in the studies, said Brunzell, a Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The studies in which cholesterol seemed harmful in later life involved unusually healthy subjects, he said. For such people,

heart disease may occur much later in life, and high cholesterol may play a role, he said.

For groups more representative of the population - as in the new study and the four others that found high cholesterol to be benign in the elderly - heart disease may already have occurred at earlier ages, he said.

More than 2 million Americans over age 65 are being treated with drugs to lower high cholesterol levels, and many may be getting treatment unnecessarily, an editorial accompanying the study suggested.

Cholesterol-lowering drugs can be expensive, can have uncomfortable side effects and may increase the risk of other causes of death, such as cancer, the editorial said.

Contrary to federal recommendations, "elderly people in their late 70s and beyond generally should not be screened or treated

for high blood cholesterol," said the editorial, by Drs. Stephen B. Hulley and Thomas B. Newman of the University of California, San Francisco.

"The most important thing about this (new) paper is it suggests that we need to be careful treating high cholesterol in older people, thinking we're going to prevent heart disease," Brunzell said. "There's very little data to suggest that'll work."

The National Cholesterol Education Program recommends that all adults know their blood-cholesterol levels, and that levels above 240 milligrams per tenth of a liter of blood be treated, first with dietary changes and then with drugs if necessary.

Dr. Basil Rifkind of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, agreed that "We don't want too high a proportion of older individuals on drug treatment to reduce cholesterol."

Pets and Owners to Be Buried in Same Cemetery

LONDON (AFP) - A new cemetery is to open in England where pets and their owners can be buried together, a press report said yesterday.

Julian Wedgewood, the man behind the scheme, said the idea came to him as he was pruning some of the 2,000 oak trees he planted on his land on a south-facing slope above his home near Huntshaw, southwest England, to stop occasional flooding, according to the Times.

"I got to thinking about the Mongols," he told the paper.

I realized this was a perfect place for a burial ground. The Mongols always wanted to be buried beneath a tree on a south-facing slope, and they wanted to be buried with their horses beside them.

"I had the trees, I had the slope, and I thought: 'why not bury both

pets and people?'" Wedgewood added.

He plans to lease each tree for 150 pounds (\$225) for 10 years, with that payment to cover the cost of the burial of the first pet.

Burial of humans will cost 250 pounds (\$375), and tree leases will be renewable at terms to be agreed every ten years.

"Humans will be buried to the south of the tree, as the Mongols would have insisted," Wedgewood told the Times.

"Pets go to the east, north or west. If anyone wanted their pet buried alongside them or in a double depth grave, I expect that could be arranged," he added.

The local parish council backed the scheme, which finally got the go-ahead earlier when the district council granted planning permission.

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Independent Panel Supports U.N., Blames Crisis on Washington

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations can be a useful U.S. policy tool but is in crisis largely because of Washington's "negative attitude" and consistent refusal to pay its dues, a panel of independent U.S. experts said here recently.

At a news briefing here, members of the panel which included prominent politicians and former critics of the United Nations, detailed the findings of a report which concludes that the United Nations "can be a useful and effective means to advance U.S. interests in the world."

They intend to take up their findings with Congress and the Clinton administration in a bid to restore bipartisan support for the world body which is grappling with the worst financial crisis in its 51-year history.

Team member George Soros, the international financier, said that "The U.N. is in crisis very

largely because of the animosity towards the U.N., and the non-payment of the dues, by the United States. We are arguing that we are damaging our own interests by doing this."

John Whitehead, chairman of the U.N. Association of the United States and a long-time U.N. supporter, said he had "never seen international resentment (of the United States) as high as it is today over United Nations issues."

He said that Washington's "negative attitude" such as its "rather brutal discarding" of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and failure to pay arrears of more than one billion dollars, had contributed to that perception.

Washington is threatening to veto a second term for the current secretary-general.

The report concludes that the current crisis is due mainly be-

cause member states have failed to pay their bills, have given the United Nations responsibilities without the power to carry them out, and have blamed the United Nations for failures in national policies.

"The principal way to make the United Nations a better organization and to better serve U.S. interests is to fix American perceptions of what the United Nations is and is not, and of what it can and cannot do," the report says.

"To be sure, the United Nations needs reform, streamlining and cost-cutting. But what it needs most is for the major powers to agree on when, how and where to use it well and wisely."

Council of foreign relations expert Mort Halperin pointed out that the failure in Bosnia which was blamed on the United Nations, "was largely the failure of the major powers to know what they wanted to do."

Nader Has Fought for Consumers for 30 Years

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Ralph Nader, who is now officially the Green Party's presidential nominee, has crusaded for consumer's rights and against corporate profiteering for 30 years.

Often portrayed as David against Goliath, Nader exhorts Americans to uphold "their civic responsibility ... we can't possibly have a democracy with a few million Americans and only a handful of citizens," he once said.

His work has yielded concrete results -- from seat belts and air bags in automobiles to the Freedom of Information Act, upon which journalists and others rely to get information from the government.

To his detractors, 62-year-old Nader is something of an anachronism. The world has changed but he seems frozen in time. And, they say, his efforts have brought government interference and burdensome regulations.

Nader's first struggle against the system came at Princeton University, where he tried to prevent the trees on campus from being treated with DDT.

Later he continued his studies at Harvard University and opened a small law practice in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1965 he wrote a book that made him famous entitled "Unsafe at Any Speed." It accused the U.S. automobile industry, and General Motors (GM) especially, of ignoring driver safety.

GM had a detective investigate Nader's background, prompting a lawsuit by Nader that ended in a \$425,000 award against GM in his favor.

Nader's crusade as head of a battle-ready group of students dubbed the "Nader Raiders" has taken on the meat and poultry industries, drinking water, and safety issues related to oil pipelines, coal mines and nuclear plants.

His name was mentioned as a possible vice presidential candidate on George McGovern's 1972

Democratic ticket.

Over the years, Nader established a network of organizations monitoring Congress, the environment, economic policy and health in general. His latest triumph came in the late 1980s, when he forced automobile insurance companies in California to slash their rates.

Today as in 1965, Nader still has the aura of an energetic college professor. He dresses pretty much the same and has not moved out of his modest apartment at Washington's Dupont Circle.

Unlike the average American, Nader has no credit cards, prefers his ageing typewriter to a computer, does not have a car or a stereo and watches a black-and-white television.

He has shunned marriage because, he commented, "I didn't want to be an absentee father or an absentee husband."

But despite such apparent drawbacks, Nader boasts of living "better than 99 percent of the people on the planet."

Georgia Sees Its Future with Europe

TBILISI (AFP) - For newcomers strolling past the 19th-century opera house and the elegant neoclassical facades on Rustaveli prospect, Georgia's capital is more reminiscent of a town in southern Europe than a former Soviet republic.

And these days Georgians and their President, Eduard Shevardnadze, feel the same way.

"This is nothing new, we've always had close ties with Europe," said Dato Kadagishvili, a young businessman who runs Tbilisi's only bagel shop.

Georgia's recent application for full membership of the Council of Europe, the 39-member body that promotes inter-governmental and parliamentary cooperation, is part of Georgia's swing away from Russia and towards integration with Europe.

"Every Georgian believes he's a European," said Alexander Rondeli, a professor at Tbilisi State University.

"To be European is the ultimate compliment here -- it represents everything positive, from civilization to culture to a developed democracy," Rondeli said.

For the fun-loving Georgians, who have been Christian since the 4th century, nothing is more natural than joining Europe. They say they share the same religion, culture and historical traditions.

Georgians, who count many playwrights, film directors and artists in their midst, hope to gain cultural exchange from increased integration with Europe.

But there are other more practical reasons for Georgia to move closer to Europe.

"Membership of the Council of Europe is the waiting room for becoming a member of the European Union," said Lana Gogoberidze, chairman of Georgia's five-member parliamentary delegation to the Council of Europe.

"Closer ties are also a guarantee of our independence and security," Gogoberidze said, referring to Georgia's fledgling democracy and sense of statehood, recently won after 70 years of Soviet rule.

It is no secret that Russia was loath to part with the oil-rich and strategically important trans-Caucasus region after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

But the loss of Georgia, with its snow-capped mountains, subtropical beaches and lush vineyards, was perhaps the hardest to bear.

To this day Shevardnadze, the former Soviet Foreign Minister, has to play a careful game balancing Europe and Russia.

"Georgia is always looking for a protector," said Ghia Nodia, head of Tbilisi's Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development.

"Georgia has some strong neighbors -- Turkey and Iran and in the past Russia was their protector. Now Russia is seen as a potential threat and the West as a guardian against Russia," Nodia said.

Both Georgia and Armenia have been guest members of the Council of Europe since May. But it is more likely that Georgia will get the go ahead for full membership when the next session meets in September than will Armenia or Azerbaijan. "The trans-Caucasus countries are all at different stages of development," said Dennis Sammut, the director of Vertic, a

British non-governmental organization here.

"Georgia is the most advanced in terms of a free press, a working parliament and a good civil society and is becoming a model for the other two countries," Sammut said.

There is little doubt that Georgia has made tremendous strides since independence in 1991. One civil war and two wars of secession left a refugee crisis, destruction of the infrastructure and an economy in shambles.

Now Georgia has a new and stable currency, a democratically elected president and parliament and a free press.

Meanwhile Azerbaijan has press censorship and a government consisting mainly of President Heydar Aliyev's relatives and close friends.

The situation in Armenia is little better, where political dissent is not encouraged and international observers declared last year's parliamentary elections unfair.

China Mulls New Laws to Control Serious Coastal Pollution

BEIJING (AFP) - China is to implement tough plans to curb the discharge of waste water around its coasts, a type of pollution responsible for the death of some 80 percent of coral reefs, the China daily said yesterday.

Some 80 percent of coastal pollution comes from the nine billion tons of untreated water, including 1.46 million tons of sewage and petroleum products, that annually flow into the seas from coastal towns, it said. The results of a recent survey on ocean water and the seabed is expected to spawn tough laws that will aim to halt and then reverse a problem that has destroyed 80 percent of China's coral reefs and 70 percent of its mangrove swamps.

"Offshore ecosystems have been seriously damaged by these discharges, particularly coral reefs and mangroves, both of

which play important parts in the sea's self-purification," the paper quoted experts as saying.

Many cities in China are concealed under a haze of atmospheric pollution that has caused a dramatic increase in respiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis.

Much of the pollution is concentrated in coastal areas, the birthplaces of China's economic boom and still the focus of much government and overseas investment because of their convenient transport links.

China has recently promulgated a clutch of laws to curb pollution and ordered hundred of small paper mills to close or install facilities to treat the millions of tons of chemical-contaminated water they discharge into the country's major rivers.

Bush Hunters Patrol Where Police Fear to Tread

ABIDJAN (AFP) - Frustrated by the inability of the police to prevent a growing spate of violent crime in their area, residents of Abobo, a populous working-class district of Abidjan, have called on a brotherhood of bush hunters known as Dozos to secure their streets.

Around midnight, before each patrol, the Dozos prepare themselves for their night's work. All wear traditional costumes, some embellished with cowrie shells, mirror fragments and gazelle horns. They are armed with ancient and unreliable muskets that spew out great clouds of smoke when fired.

Crouched in the middle of a crossroads, one of the hunters mutters incantations as he leans over his fetish, a mysterious headless bird. The others reply by blowing whistles that imitate animal noises.

As a gunshot echoes through the city's empty streets the group of 20 breaks up into units of four before beginning the patrols.

The sharp-eyed posses make their way imposingly down dark, tumbledown streets, moving without fear or hesitation. When a figure appears in the gloom, the Dozos of one unit point their torches and interrogate a startled man.

"Are you a night watchman? No? Then go home!"

Other residents are frisked, their hands in the air in a gesture of submission. A man in search of a late night snack is manhandled back to his house. Had he been a bandit, the hunters would have tied him up and escorted him to the police station.

It is four months since the traders of Abobo asked the head of Abidjan's Association of Hunters to engage the Dozos, who already

"protect" several upcountry villages against thieves and latter-day highwaymen.

Sometimes they go over the top: local newspapers regularly report tales of the hunters' brutality.

Their presence in Abidjan is nevertheless appreciated.

"It was becoming impossible here. The bandits enjoyed a reign of terror. They're not afraid of the police, but they know they can't do anything with the Dozos around," said one of Abobo's 600,000 residents.

These hunters, also found in Mali, Burkina Faso and northern Ivory Coast, undergo a long and secret initiation ceremony they claim makes them invulnerable.

"The longest part is learning to become invincible," said one initiate.

"What we have that the police don't is magic," added another.



MADRID, SPAIN: Suffering from extreme heat, a Siberian tiger tries to refresh itself by taking a swim in Madrid Zoo. (AFP Photo)

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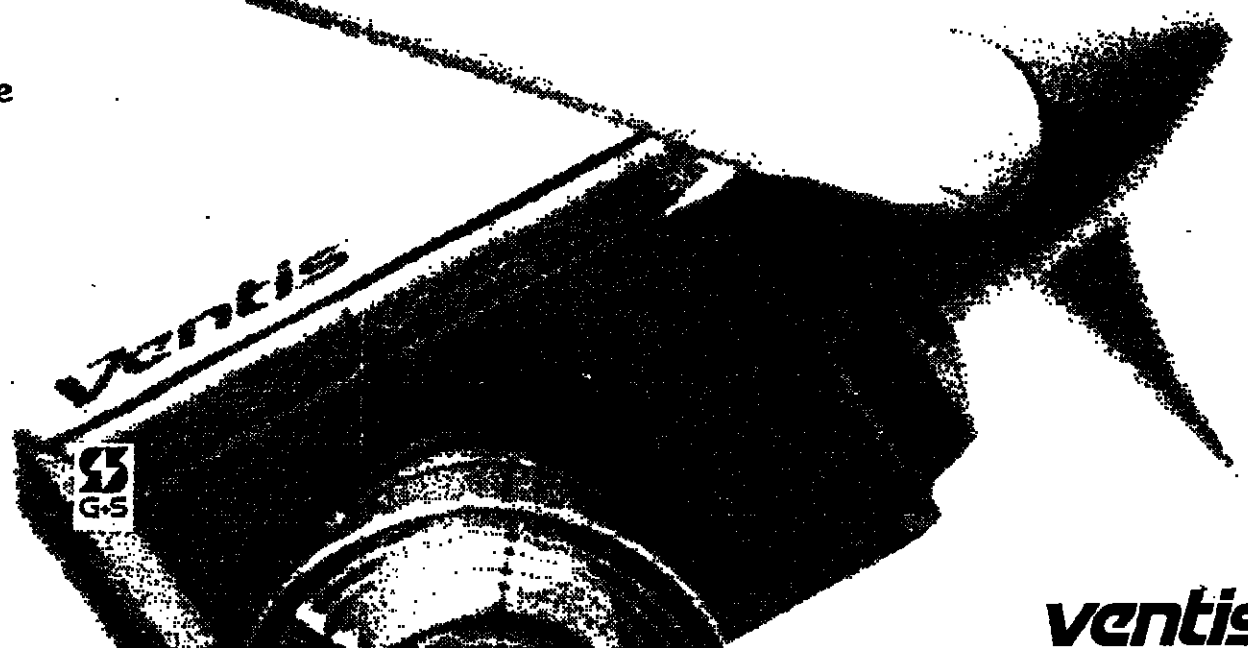
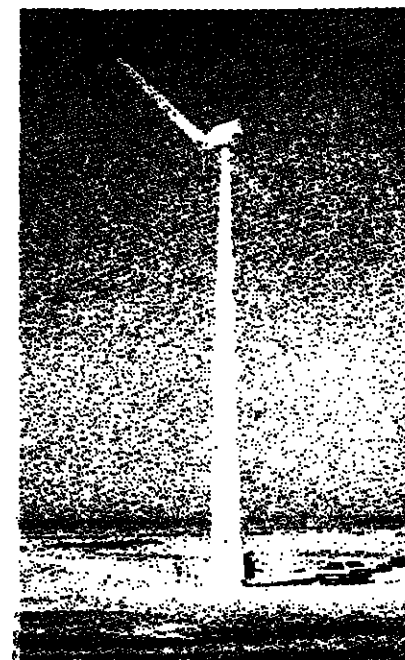
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First Convention of Cultural Attaches

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

TEHRAN - The first convention of officials in charge of cultural affairs outside Iran was held at the Organization of Islamic Culture and Relations in Tehran Monday. The convention is to review policies and practices for cultural work outside Iran.

Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi congratulated the formation of the Organization of Islamic Culture and Relations, saying that the organization's principal function was to prevent duplicity of same work by parallel organizations.

Ayatollah Yazdi said cultural officials should rely on Islam and the Islamic Republic, resting assured that they can engage in cultural activities in the four corners of the world.

He hoped that the Islamic Republic would shortly have cultural attaches throughout the world, IRNA reported.

Participants in the convention on Monday also paid a visit to the holy shrine of Imam Khomeini in tribute to his memory.

Museum About Ho Chi Minh Trail

HANOI (AFP) - Vietnam is to build a museum about the Ho Chi Minh trail, the 2,000 kilometer (1,200-mile) supply route hacked out of the jungle that the United States found impossible to block off, a report said Wednesday (August 14).

The trail, actually a network of dozens of criss-crossing jungle routes that stretched deep into neighboring Laos and Cambodia, was a vital lifeline for communist forces fighting the South Vietnamese and the United States.

The museum will be built at Yen Nghia Commune, an old staging post for troops heading south, located 15 kilometers (nine miles) outside Hanoi. It will also be a center for studying the Trung Son regiment, an engineering corp that hacked the trail out of the mountainous jungle, the Vietnam news agency said.

U.S. forces repeatedly carpet bombed the trail but were unable to completely cut off the slow trickle of men and armaments that constantly flowed down the ever-changing supply line.

For troops, the trail was an arduous trek that could take several months depending on the season, with the constant risk of bombing runs or disease.

Work is due to begin in October and is aimed to be completed by 1999 for opening during celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the construction of the trail in 1960.

Italian Police Recover Stolen Artworks

ROME (AFP) - Three people were arrested and seven others were being questioned after Italian police discovered a series of stolen and forged artworks in Italy and abroad, police said Saturday (August 17).

Among the works recovered was a valuable book from the beginning of the 16th century, stolen

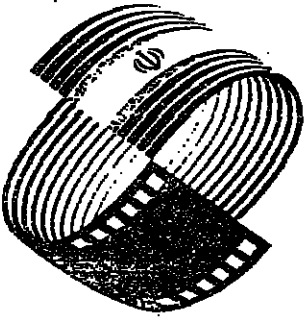
at the end of the 1970s from the Oratorio Dei Girolamini Library in the southern city of Naples. The book was discovered in antique shop there.

During three months of enquiries, police also found in a New York antique shop a fragment of a sarcophagus which disappeared from the catacombs of San Cal-

isto in Rome in December 1990. In all, 187 archaeological items, two marble statues, a valuable chandelier and 115 forged paintings by "old masters" were seized by police, including a large number of fake paintings attributed to important contemporary painters recovered in several Rome galleries.

Sacred Struggle Festival of Film and Photography

Encouraging the Creative Impulse



IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The first Sacred Struggle Festival of Film and Photography will be staged in Tehran from August 23 - 29.

Sayed Alireza Sajjadpoor, the director of the Sacred Struggle Festival stated at a press conference on Monday that the festival is being organized with the objective of presenting films that depict the achievements of the government specially in the reconstruction period and point out the effects of the government's measures in promoting production and reaching self-sufficiency.

The cinematic-photographic event is also being held with the aim of encouraging film directors, producers, and the creators of video programs, Sajjadpoor added.

According to the festival director, the festival will be organized in three main sections.

A. Film and video section, including competitions of 35mm feature-length films, 16 & 35mm short and feature-length films, and video programs with narrative, documentary and news contents.

B. Photo contest involving



Festival Director Sajjadpoor

color as well as black and white images.

C. The third section will include other forms of artistic endeavors that could express the objectives of the festival.

A total of 31 feature-length films and about 1700 minutes of

video programs were accepted by the festival's selection committee for the film and video section which included Mahmud Ghalib, Hossein Hosseinkhani and Mohammad Dastgerdi.

The selection committee for the Photo Contest section, com-

prising Mohammad Ahmadi and Saeed Sadeqi, picked 69 images for the final stage of the contest out of a total of 370 photographs submitted to the festival bureau.

Members of the jury for the film and video section are Ali Akbar Ash'ari, Dr. Mohammad Rajabi, Hamid Khakbazan, Nader Talebzadeh and Javad Shamaqdari who will be awarding prizes in the following categories:

*Best direction of a feature-length film

*Best direction of a short film

*Best direction of a documentary video program

*Best direction of a documentary film

*Best direction of a reportage video program

*Best direction of a news video program

*Best direction of an advertisement film

*Best producer of a feature-length or short film or a video program

*And the Special Jury Prize.

The jury for the Photo Contest section, including Mohammad Ahmadi, Saeed Sadeqi and Abdollah Zaviye, will award prizes to the best photographer, best producer of photographs and 5 creators of superior images.

A number of exhibitions of photographs related to the government projects will also be organized during the festival days.

Festival entries in the film section will be screened at Africa and Kowsar movie theaters.

South Korea Set to Arrest Novelist for Drunken Venture into North

SEOUL (AFP) - South Korean prosecutors on Monday sought an arrest warrant for a novelist who was handed back to the South Saturday after straying into North Korea from China during a drinking spree.

The writer, former dissident Kim Young, 38, better known by his pen name Kim Ha-Gi, was whisked off by security officials at Seoul's Gimpo Airport on Saturday after being returned through China after his escapade.

He said on arrival home that he had been "under the influence of alcohol" when he disappeared from a North Korean restaurant in the Chinese border area of Jangji on July 31, but was "very happy to be home."

The warrant was sought because it is believed that Kim had "intentionally" crossed over illegally into the North, despite his claim that he had been drunk at the time, a prosecution official told AFP Monday.

The Agency for National Security Planning, formerly known as the KCIA, would continue to investigate the incident, the official said.

South Korea's draconian but vague national security law bars with the threat of heavy jail sentences unauthorized visits to the communist North, espousing or spreading North Korean ideology and acting against state security.

North Korea on Tuesday said it would release Kim on humanitarian grounds although he had "committed a very serious crime."

Kim told reporters on Saturday northern officials had tried to persuade him to stay there once they had established his identity, but that he had refused and asked to be returned home.

Kim, once jailed in the South as a dissident, has written most of his novels about the fate of long-term prisoners in the South, jailed for decades for refusing to renounce communism.

Theft of the Royal Bracelet

LONDON (AFP): An 18th century bracelet worth up to 40,000 pounds (60,000 dollars) has been stolen from a display cabinet at Buckingham Palace, a palace spokeswoman said.

The pearl bracelet, featuring a miniature portrait of King George III, is part of the royal collection, the spokeswoman added.

The theft was discovered when a member of the staff noticed the lock on the cabinet had been forced.

It had been suggested that a visiting member of the public might be responsible, but the theft was discovered on July 26 - before the palace opened to the public for a limited period over the summer, the palace spokeswoman said.

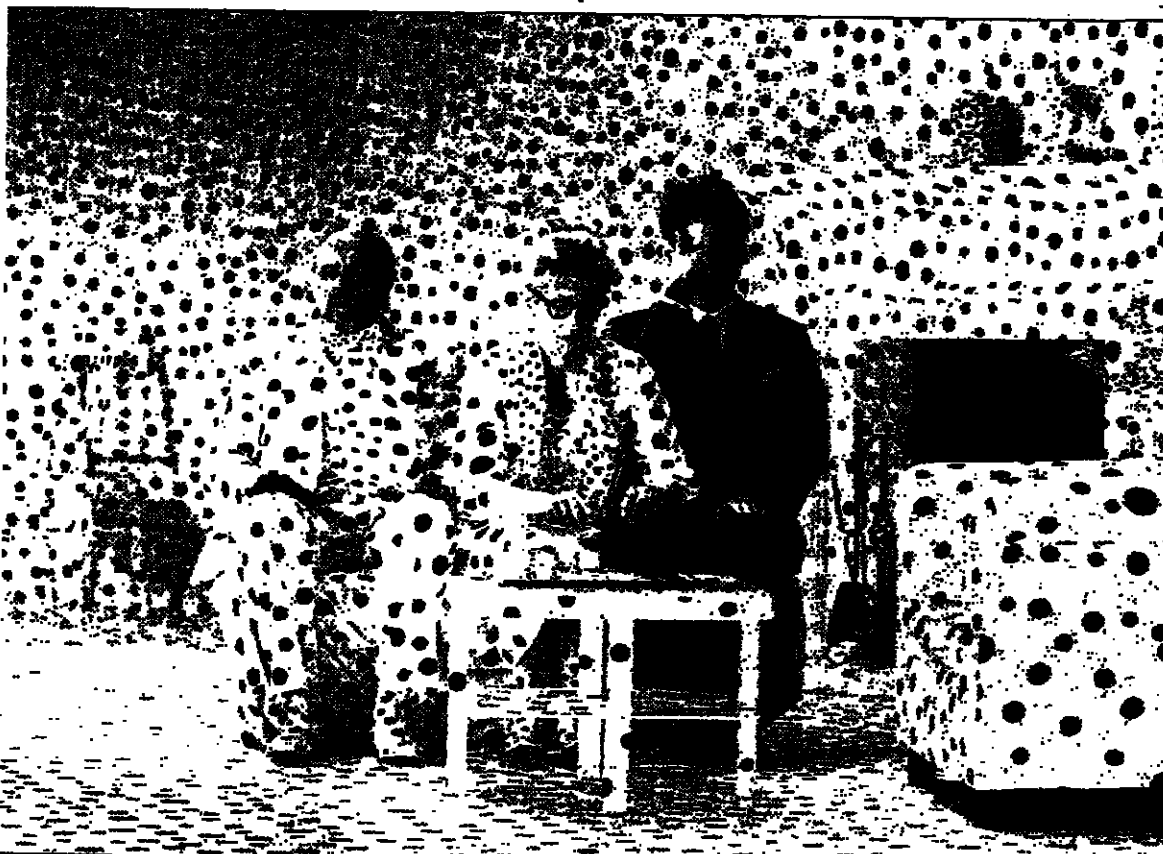
The queen has been told and Scotland Yard is investigating the crime, which is thought to be the first major theft within the palace.

Chamber Opera at Cologne City Theater Progressive Loss of Visual Cognition

Cologne's city theaters have a director-general again since the start of the 1995/96 season. As in other German cities where companies present opera, ballet, and plays, people have become more cost-conscious in the Rhine metropolis. With the departure of Michael Hampe as opera director, both houses came under Günter Krämer, previously the theater intendant. It is hoped that such synergy will both make possible more economically efficient work and bear artistic fruit.

A forerunner of the prospect of new possibilities opening up came last December when the workshop, a small subsidiary stage at the theater, was used for a musical performance for the first time.

Michael Nyman's "The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat", a chamber opera based on neurologist Oliver Sacks' celebrated case study and premiered in 1986, is more a music-theater aperçu than an actual opera but was ideal for this occasion. Three singers



"The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat", chamber opera by Michael Nyman. A scene with Ulrich Hielscher, Andrea Andonian, and Salvatore Champagne.

and seven musicians were directed by Uwe Hergenroder in a set by Ulrich Schulz which masterfully captured the atmosphere of the original.

The tragedy and absurdity of P., a professor of music who suffers from progressive loss of capacity for visual cognition, become obvious to blurs distinctions between space, object, and the person involved. This atmosphere simultaneously reflects the

English composer's accessible minimalist harmonies.

Even if the piece may be classified as being all too musically accommodating, when presented in a suitable staging as now in Cologne it offers surprising and moving moments, and seems absolutely suitable for attracting interest in the otherwise tricky genre of modern opera. So a step in the right direction for Cologne. (Courtesy KULTURCHRONIK)

Britain's Roy Loo

Former Actor Gets Four Years

Crucial Indian State in October

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Britain's Royalty Taking a New Look at Itself

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's royal family was yesterday reported to be re-examining itself with an eye toward a leaner, meaner, more user-friendly monarchy going into the 21st century.

Said to be under consideration were royal women's rights to succession, interfaith marriage and an end to the much-criticized civil list, the 8.7 million pounds (\$13 million) in annual stipends to royal family members.

Buckingham palace was characteristically taciturn. A spokeswoman confirmed senior royal family members and advisers were involved in "ongoing discussions" on the development of the monarchy.

She refused to elaborate, or to comment on a newspaper report that fundamental changes in the constitutional position of the monarchy were under study.

A report in The Sun yesterday, quoting government sources, said

Queen Elizabeth II had set up a secret palace committee called the "Way Ahead Group" to examine fundamental changes that would ease the royal family's way into the next century.

These, said the paper, notably included scrapping the civil list payments in return for the restoration to the royals of the crown estates of the Duchy of Lancaster. The property would produce taxable income of around 60 million pounds (\$90 million) a year.

Also under scrutiny, said the paper, was the idea of allowing women equal rights to succeed to the throne. Today only the eldest son of the monarch may take the throne. That, under the new rules, could be changed to the eldest child without gender restriction.

The Sun said changes under consideration also included streamlining the royal family itself, limiting it by definition to the monarch, the consort, their chil-

dren and those grandchildren who are direct heirs to the throne.

The queen's committee, according to The Sun, was also studying the possibility of scrapping the three-century-old ban on heirs to the throne from marrying Catholics.

The monarch's traditional role as head of the Church of England was also under the microscope, said the report.

The palace spokeswoman said "strategic issues" affecting the royal family were regularly discussed by the queen, the Duke of Edinburgh's household and the Prince of Wales's household.

She said such meetings had produced, in recent years, the much-publicized decisions to reduce the civil list, for the queen to pay tax, opening Buckingham Palace to visitors, granting greater access to the royal collection and funding the restoration of Windsor Castle after the fire.



"The discussion of strategic issues goes on regularly in this as in other organizations," said the spokeswoman. "It is a process of discussion of major issues, involving the government as necessary."

"As to the actual content of what is being discussed now, we are not going into any detail," she said. "It is worth pointing out that one of the reasons the monarchy

has lasted for over 1,000 years is that it is able to adapt and change."

The Sun said the idea of the Way Ahead Group originated in 1992, the year the queen described as her "anus horrible," a year that saw the marriages of two of her children fall apart, her favorite residence gutted by fire and a lively debate on the future of the monarchy.

Israel Kidnapped Four Lebanese After Loss of Mossad Agent

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel kidnapped four Lebanese who handed over to Syria a Mossad intelligence agent involved in the assassination of a leading Palestinian Islamic militant, Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Mossad agent, a Palestinian recruited four years ago while studying in Bulgaria, was a source of information which led to the murder in Malta last October of Islamic Jihad Chief Fathi Shakaki, it said.

The killing is believed to have been the work of an Israeli hit squad.

The four Lebanese were abducted on February 22, at the orders of Israel's previous Labor government, after an investigation by the secret services and are still being held at an undisclosed location in Israel.

The Supreme Court turned down an appeal for their release two months ago for security reasons, the paper said, without specifying where the initial arrests took place.

Another Mossad agent was arrested in Syria just before the anti-terrorist summit held in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in March 1996, the Yediot said.

Among the most prominent Lebanese abducted by Israel are Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, a leader of the Hezbollah who was seized in July 1989, and another Muslim chief, Mustafa Dirani, in May 1994.

Both are still being held in Israel.

Iraq Turns Deaf Ear to Jordan's Allegations

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraq on Tuesday turned a deaf ear to King Hussein's accusations that Baghdad was behind riots in southern Jordan over increased bread prices.

Official newspapers, state-run television and government officials made no response to the accusations, and only Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, reported the riots on Tuesday.

King Hussein accused elements linked to Iraq of having stirred up the riots which erupted last week in Jordan after the more-than-doubling in the price of bread.

Teyssir Homs, the head of the Jordanian branch of the Arab Socialist Baath Party which is pro-Iraqi, on Monday denied any involvement in the troubles.

The United States was unable to confirm King Hussein's charge that Iraqi sympathizers had fomented the violence.

In Amman, officials said 14 Baath Party members were detained as were 13 members of Hashad, a leftist party close to Damascus-based radical Palestinian group the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Iraq's relations with Jordan, which had been accused of supporting Baghdad during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, deteriorated after senior Iraqi officials defected to Amman last year.

Former Arkansas Governor Gets Four Years' Probation

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS (AFP) - Former Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker escaped a prison term and was sentenced to four years' probation for fraud related to the Whitewater affair that has dogged President Bill Clinton.

Judge George Howard indicated that the comparatively lenient sentence was given because of Tucker's ill health. Doctors testifying in the case said Tucker would probably die soon if he did not undergo a liver transplant.

Howard said "Tucker has a multitude of serious medical problems" and conceded that if he underwent a liver transplant, "he would need trained assistance that he would not receive in prison."

"The court is convinced that a sanction requiring imprisonment would be as cruel as the grave," Howard said Monday.

In addition to the suspended four-year sentence, Tucker was fined \$25,000 and ordered to pay \$150,000 in restitution to the U.S. Small Business Administration, which lost money in a transaction in which he was involved.

He was also put under house arrest for 18 months and ordered to prepare papers on the subjects of self-respect and the value of education and to deliver them to schools in the area.

"I think the court took into consideration the very extraordinary fact that I have a life-threatening disease and a sentence of imprisonment would have meant the death penalty," Tucker told reporters. The prosecution had asked for a "substantial prison sentence" and a

stiff fine. Tucker could have faced a jail term of up to 10 years and a \$500,000 fine.

Nevertheless, Tucker indicated he would proceed with an appeal of his conviction in the case. Tucker was convicted in May and resigned as governor in July.

Earlier Monday, the sentencing of James McDougal, a former business partner of Clinton, was postponed until November 18. McDougal's ex-wife Susan McDougal was scheduled to be sentenced Tuesday.

The move seemed to confirm recent reports that McDougal is now cooperating with Whitewater prosecutors in exchange for a recommendation of leniency.

Tucker and the McDougals were convicted on May 28 of involvement in fraudulent loans made in the 1980s when Tucker was a private citizen and the McDougals owned a savings and loan association.

The case, which included a taped testimony from Clinton, was the first clear victory in independent counsel Kenneth Starr's longstanding investigation of the Whitewater affair that has been dogging the president since he was elected to the White House in 1992.

During the trial all three defendants said they were victims of a political trial by independent counsel Kenneth Starr, a Republican who they alleged was hoping to embarrass Clinton, a Democrat.

Clinton and his wife Hillary, were once business partners of the McDougals in a failed real estate development called Whitewater.

Crucial Indian State Elections in October

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's most populous state will go to the polls in October in an election which could affect the future of Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's government, a newspaper reported here Saturday. Sprawling northern Uttar Pradesh, home to 140 million people, will hold the state government election on October 3, 6 and 9, the Hindustan Times reported. Officials were not available to comment on the report.

The daily said the election commission and the Home Ministry, which is responsible for providing security during polling,

wanted voting to end before the start of a Hindu festival season in October.

Uttar Pradesh, like troubled northern Kashmir, is presently ruled directly by New Delhi. The state was placed under direct rule after its government collapsed in October 1995 amid internal bickering.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the country's main opposition, has vowed to take power in Uttar Pradesh. Political analysts say a BJP victory could bring pressure on Deve Gowda's United Front coalition.

Green Party Taps Consumer Advocate Nader for President

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Pioneer consumer advocate Ralph Nader accepted Monday the fledgling Green Party's nomination and urged Americans to defect from the corporate-directed Republican and Democratic parties.

The tireless defender of consumer and civil rights gave a two and half hour acceptance speech to some 400 enthusiastic party followers in a University of California Los Angeles auditorium.

To Green Party voters asked why they are being "spoilers" by taking votes away from the Democratic Party, Nader instructed them to say "you can't spoil a system that is spoiled to the core."

"Tell them: We are sick and tired of being told every four years we have to choose between bad and worse. And every four years it just gets worse," said Nader, 62, who spoke like an energetic college professor.

His speech wrapped up the Green Party's five-day National Conference billed as "Building Critical Mass, Green Gathering '96." It was the party's first presidential candidate.

The Green Party was formed in 1984 and has won a few local seats, particularly in Alaska and the west, but has not successfully fielded a candidate for national office.

Nader has no chance of winning but is on the ballot in 12 states and activists say they hope to have him on the ballot in 25 states by November. More importantly, he is on the ballot in New York and California where he could take crucial votes from President Bill Clinton.

If Nader were to get seven percent of the state's votes, as one poll showed, by siphoning off liberals disappointed with the president, his presence in the race could push the state into a win for former senate majority leader Bob Dole.

"A vote for Ralph Nader is a vote for Bob Dole," said Bill Press, a former chairman of the Democratic Party.

Clinton is currently leading his Republican rival by a sturdy 20 percentage points in California opinion polls.

Nader says that the prospect of the Republicans winning was not his problem. "Both parties have spoiled and destroyed Democratic politics in our country."

Both Nader's breezy style and

the relaxed gathering of people crossing the age spectrum here, many dressed in sandals and tee-shirts, stood in sharp contrast to the starchy, made-for-TV Republican Convention.

Nearly 15,000 reporters showed up in San Diego for the Republican Convention last week for a highly scripted event. About two dozen reporters, nearly all of them local, showed up for the Green gathering.

Even the press passes were printed on recycled paper. There were no teleprompters or police motorcades. Red, white and blue balloons did not descend from the ceiling and the gathering was anything but choreographed.

Standing on a black stage, Nader took aim at the lavishly orchestrated Republican convention that was largely financed by corporate donations, noting he accepts no donations.

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole and his running mate Jack Kemp "sailed in to San Diego on a sea of corporate cash. It's a wonder they didn't fall off their seats," he said to cheers and chants in the audience.

Supporters, including one who

had died his hair green, waved signs that read "Fight Corporate Power," "Go Nader Go" and "Vote for a Change." Some held up pictures of the White House with a "for sale" sign on it.

Nader, who gained attention with his book attacking unsafe autos in the 1960s, could affect the campaign in California, whose 31.4 million residents represent 12 percent of the U.S. population and a similar number of electoral votes.

He made no apologies to Democrats as the traditional camp for liberals but he did take pot shots at Republican speakers who bemoaned giving welfare benefits to low-income people while leaving "corporate welfare" intact.

"It's those rich guys on welfare, they're the ones eating you out of house and home," he said, referring to corporate tax credits and tax loopholes.

Nader also lashed out for Republicans zealously waving the banner of family values.

"The rightwingers talk about family values. They ought to talk about corporate values smashing family values," he said, blaming corporations for sacrificing public safety and health for profits.

The Russian Government List

MOSCOW (AFP) - Here is an updated list of the new Russian government after the appointment Saturday of Vladimir Fortov to the post of deputy prime minister in charge of science.

First Deputy Prime Ministers: Vladimir Potanin, in charge of economic affairs Viktor Ilyushin, in charge of social affairs Alexei Bolshakov, in charge of industrial affairs

Deputy Prime Ministers: Alexander Livshits also finance minister, Oleg Davydov also minister for foreign economic relations, Vladimir Babychev head of the government administration, Vitaly Ignatenko in charge of information, Alexander Zaveryukha in charge of agriculture, Valery Serov in charge of relations with the CIS, Oleg Lobov in charge of transport and housing, Vladimir Fortov in

charge of science

Ministers:
Foreign Affairs: Yevgeny Primakov, Interior: Anatoly Kulikov, Defense: Igor Rodionov, Economy: Yevgeny Yasin, Finance: Alexander Livshits, Agriculture: Viktor Khlystun, Justice: Valentin Kovalyov, Emergency Situations: Sergei Shoigu, Nationalities: Vyacheslav Mikhailov, Atomic Energy: Viktor Mikhailov, Labour: Gennady Melikyan, Transport: Nikolai Tsakh, Housing: Yefim Basin, Communications: Vladimir Bulgak, Professional Training: Vladimir Kinelev, Military Industry: Zinoviy Pak, Ministerial Posts still to be announced: Energy, Industry, Public Health, Culture, Natural resources, Railways, cooperation with the CIS, Head of the Federal Security Service: Nikolai Kovalyov

Christie's Farewell a Disappointment

GATESHEAD, ENGLAND (AFP) - Former Olympic sprint champion Linford Christie's farewell international appearance in front of British fans proved a disappointing anti-climax on Monday night when Christie was injured in the 200 meters and then withdrew from the 100 meters.

The meet was advertised as 36-year-old Christie's final appearance in Britain before his retirement, although the unpredictable 1992 Olympic 100 meters gold medalist suggested he may yet decide to continue next season.

Christie, who was disqualified from the Atlanta 100 meters final after two false starts, was beaten into second place by fellow Briton John Regis in the 200 on Monday night and then withdrew from the shorter sprint, citing a twisted knee.

Regis clocked 20.62 in the 200, edging out Christie by two-hundredths of a second.

"When you run in front of people like this it makes you not want to leave," said the enigmatic Christie. "I've been around for a long time and at the end of the season I will sit down and see where I am going."

Christie said he would make himself available for next year's European Cup in Munich, but no other international events.

Monday's meeting was a contest between Britain and an international select team, but only a handful of real stars were on show.

Olympic champion Donovan Bailey of Canada won the 100 meters in 10.19sec with Scotsman Ian Mackie second in 10.25.

World record holder Jonathan Edwards of Britain beat Olympic champion Kenny Harrison of the United States in the men's triple jump, for the second time in a week.

Edwards cleared 17.38 meters



GATESHEAD, ENGLAND: Linford Christie supports an injured knee after finishing the 200m final in Gateshead August 19. The injury forced Christie to pull out of the 100m race later in the evening.

(AFP Photo)

to win from compatriot Francis Agyepong (16.62) and Harrison, who jumped a disappointing 16.60.

American Allen Johnson, another Atlanta gold medalist, won ahead of Britons Tony Jarrett the 400 meters hurdles in 13.25sec,

(13.33) and Colin Jackson (13.43).

Atlanta silver medalist Roger Black, meanwhile, delighted the crowd of around 11,000 with a victory over American Derek Mills in the 400 meters in a time of 44.64sec.

Sons of Olympic Champions

SYDNEY (AFP) - The sons of three former Olympic champions will be bidding for medals at the IAAF World Junior Athletic Championships, which get underway here Wednesday.

German Danny Ecker, the son of 1972 Munich long jump gold medalist Heide Rosendahl, leads the junior pole vault rankings with 5.52 meters.

Hungarian decathlete Attila Zsivotsky is the son of Gyula Zsivotsky, who followed silver medals in the hammer throw at the 1960 Rome and 1964 Tokyo Games with the gold medal at Mexico City in 1968.

Cuban high jumper Alberto Juantorena will follow his illustrious namesake father, who in 1976 in Montreal achieved the historic 400m-800m double.

Juantorena senior had been invited as guest of honor at the 20th memorial Van Damme meeting in Brussels on Friday, but declined saying, "I wish to be with my son for his major international competition in Sydney."

Pakistan Warm Up with Victory

CHELMSFORD, ENGLAND (AP) - Pakistan got the perfect warm-up for the third test against England when they easily defeated Essex by 271 runs at Chelmsford on Monday.

The Tourists, who go into the final test at the oval with a 1-0 series lead, were guided to victory by the hostility of paceman Waqar Younis and the guile of off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

After being set a target of 390, Essex, for whom captain Paul Pritchard was unable to bat because of a migraine, were routed for 118 in their second innings.

The last eight wickets crashed for just 32 runs in 14 overs.

Waqar claimed four for 26 to return match figures of nine for 68, while Saqlain finished with five for 34 for a haul of nine for 81.

Opener Darren Robinson, with his second half-century of the game, was the only Essex player to put up much of a fight.

He collected eight boundaries while making 55 before putting up a simple return catch to Saqlain.

Robinson had shared in a half-century stand with Jonathan Lewis

for the second wicket but once that partnership was broken Essex, who fielded several inexperienced players, were simply brushed aside.



Arab, Japanese Buyers Dominate Deauville Thoroughbred Auctions

DEAUVILLE, FRANCE (AFP) - Arab and Japanese buyers have dominated sales of yearling thoroughbreds, accounting for some 30 percent of the proceeds, which were significantly up on last year, one of the auction's organizers said Monday.

Both Arab and Japanese buyers paid out roughly 15 percent of a total \$12.4 million on Saturday and Sunday at the yearling sales which continue until Thursday in this coastal resort in Northern France.

The largest check was written on Sunday, when Japanese busi-

nessman Kunio Nihonyanagi signed away \$700,000 for a yearling colt from the leading stallion Sire Nurayev.

Fifteen minutes later Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum from Dubai paid a further 3.5 million francs to become the proud owner of a colt from Sire Alzao.

The colts were sold by two prestigious Normandy establishments, the Mezeray and Etreham Studs.

Philippe Augier, president and director general of the French agency for thoroughbred sales, said he had feared the worst as the sales got off to a slow start.

However, referring to an upturn in the market, which has been relatively stagnant for the past five years, he said the weekend's sales overall were "clearly positive."

Turnover was six percent up by comparison with equivalent sales last year, while the average price of \$802,000 per horse was approximately 15 percent up, he said.

The sales, which are generally a fairly accurate barometer of the market in France, soared on Sunday, although activity was paltry by comparison with 1985 results, when a yearling fetched \$1.8 million.

McManaman Goals Give Liverpool Victory

LONDON (AFP) - England international Steve McManaman struck twice midway through the second half to lift Liverpool to a 2-0 victory over defensive-minded visitors Arsenal in an English Premiership match at Anfield on Monday night.

Midfielder McManaman opened the scoring in the 68th minute when he collected a clever pass from John Barnes, on the left, controlled the ball cleverly and then saw his shot deflected off defender Steve Bould past goalkeeper David Seaman.

Just two minutes after scoring, McManaman jinxed his way past several challenges but shot narrowly wide.

He then found the net again in the 74th minute by cleverly creating a chance for Barnes, whose fierce drive was blocked by Seaman. The ball rebounded again to McManaman, who drove the ball home low.

The match was played at a frenetic pace, with both teams showing considerably more enthusiasm than skill at first.

Liverpool, with McManaman dangerous wide on the right, were able to dominate possession, but rarely put Arsenal under pressure early on.

The home team forced a series

of first-half corners, but none of them yielded the required result.

Liverpool then lifted their teamwork after halftime and their win, which followed a 3-3 away draw with Middlesbrough on Saturday, was well deserved.

Robbie Fowler went close to increasing the margin of victory but his shot flew across the face of the goal, while substitute Lee Jones missed by inches in the dying seconds.

"We passed it round in the second half and took our chances," McManaman said. "It was just a case of being patient."

O'Brien Leads Open Wild Cards

NEW YORK (AFP) - Alex O'Brien, coming off his first ATP victory, and four-time U.S. Open doubles champion Pam Shriver were among 16 United States players named Monday as wild card entries for this year's U.S. Open.

O'Brien was rated 169th when he won the ATP International final on Sunday, becoming the lowest-rated player to win a tour event this year. He was a wild card entrant there as well.

Arsenal were again guided by Stewart Houston, acting manager until the London club are able to confirm the signing of French coach Arsene Wenger, who is currently with Japanese club Nagoya Grampus Eight.

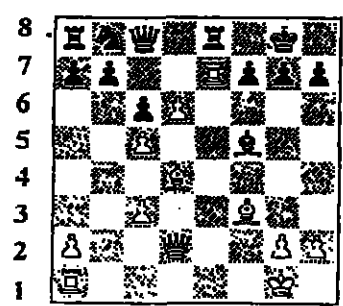
But they were unable to rediscover the impressive form they displayed in their season-opening 2-0 win over West Ham on Saturday.

It was the 32nd straight year that Liverpool have won their opening home match of the season. The game was watched by a crowd of 38,103.

Chess Problems

Compiled By:
M.H. VAFAR
Problem No. 70

Find White's Best Move.



A B C D E F G H
Solution Page 13.



SHEIKH MOHAMMED MAKTOUM OF DUBAI (R)

مكتوب